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## France backs Palestinian return resolution

PARIS (R) — France said on Friday that, like the United States, it still backed a 1948 U.N. resolution calling for the return of Palestinian refugees to their original homes or their right to receive compensation instead. "We voted for this resolution at that time. It exists and we believe it should serve as a basis for the working of the international conference on refugees now taking place in Ottawa," foreign ministry spokesman Maurice Gourdant-Montagne told reporters. The issue of General Assembly resolution 194 touched off a fresh storm between Israel and its guardian ally, the United States, on Tuesday when Washington said it backed the document. U.S. State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler somewhat qualified her government's position on Wednesday, saying the issue had to be settled in direct negotiations between Israel and Palestinians.

# Jordan Times

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## U.N. officials say Cyprus talks positive

ANKARA (R) — U.N. envoys on Friday described as positive talks with Turkish officials on the reunification of Cyprus. "Our assessment of the Ankara talks is positive. We will submit the developments to the permanent members of the Security Council," Oscar Camillo, representative of Secretary-General Boutros Ghali, told the Anatolian news agency. Mr. Camillo and U.N. Political Director Gustave Feissel met senior Foreign Ministry officials in Ankara following five days of talks with the Turkish and Greek-Cypriot leaders in Nicosia.

## N. Korean has plutonium device

BEIJING (AP) — A North Korean official on Friday confirmed the country has produced plutonium, a material that can be used to make nuclear weapons. It was the first time the Pyongyang government has said publicly it could produce the material. The disclosure came as Hans Blix, director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency, was on a visit to North Korea to clear the way for international inspections of nuclear sites in mid-June.

## Walesa in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Polish President Lech Walesa arrived here Friday for a three-day visit, his first to Egypt. He will have talks with President Hosni Mubarak and other senior Egyptian officials on the international situation and issues of mutual interest.

## Honecker indicted

BERLIN (AP) — Former East German communist leader Erich Honecker has been indicted for the shootings of people trying to flee to the West, Berlin prosecutors said Friday. Mr. Honecker, 79, has been given refuge in the Gilead embassy in Moscow and refused to return to Germany to stand trial for issuing the shoot-to-kill orders. Berlin Justice Department chief Jurta Limbach said in a statement that five of Mr. Honecker's cronies, including former state security boss, Erich Mielke, had also been indicted.

## Moroccans disappear while crossing strait

ALGECIRAS, Spain (AP) — At least 20 Moroccans disappeared and were believed drowned when the small boat in which they were trying to reach Spain capsized in the Strait of Gibraltar Friday, news reports said. Four Moroccan survivors told reporters in this southern port city they left the north coast of Morocco early Friday with the 20 others in a shallow boat equipped with an outboard motor. They said a storm capsized the craft. The four were picked up by a ship in the narrow strait that separates Europe from North Africa and taken to hospital suffering from exposure and exhaustion, the reports said.

## Algerian group pleads free old and sick

ALGIERS (R) — Algeria's human rights monitoring group has asked the authorities to release old or sick people from internment camps set up in the Sahara desert after Muslim fundamentalist unrest. Group President Kamel Razak Bara told the official news agency APS he expected several detainees to be freed soon from the seven camps. According to the agency, 61 were freed on Tuesday from a camp at Reggane, which was holding nearly 3,000 men. Reggane was where France carried out its first atomic bomb test.

## Hurd visits Mideast

LONDON (AP) — Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd left London on Friday for a three-day visit to the Middle East. The Foreign Office said Mr. Hurd flew to Kuwait for a meeting of European Community ministers with Gulf Cooperation Council ministers. Mr. Hurd then travels to Egypt before returning to London on Sunday, said a Foreign Office spokesman.

## Right of return haunts Ottawa talks on refugees

OTTAWA (Agencies) — An international conference on Middle East refugees entered its final session on Friday with the United States and Canada opposing demands to issue a final communiqué reaffirming the Palestinians' right of return.

Delegates said it seemed likely the three-day meeting would wrap up with a bland statement by host-country Canada that avoided politics and laid out small, practical steps that might help Palestinian refugees scattered around the Mideast. One U.S. official expressed relief that the conference had calmed down on Thursday after a stormy opening session on Wednesday in which Palestinian delegate Elias Sanbar said that implementation of the right of return for all Palestinian exiles was a condition for Arab-Israeli peace.

"It's a success. Everything stayed on track. It could have been much worse," the official said.

But the talks dragged on past the scheduled finishing time and conference sources said the Palestinians were still pressing for a tough political statement, while the United States and other coun-

tries continued to resist.

The U.S. and Canadian sponsors envisage a slow process in which international discussions and small-scale projects on the ground eventually contribute to building confidence between Israel and the Arabs.

Palestinians and Jordan had been hoping for a more explicit reaffirmation of United Nations resolutions that state the right of Palestinian refugees to return to homes they fled or were driven from in the Arab-Israeli wars of 1948 and 1967.

Israel boycotted the conference because Palestinian exiles from outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip were invited to take part. The Israelis said their participation opened the way to discussion of the right of return which Israel contends as a mechanism to destroy the Jewish state.

After stating their position Wednesday, Palestinian delegates struck a more conciliatory one Thursday. One held a briefing for Israeli journalists in which he said that Palestinians did not want to return to actual homes and property abandoned. They meant "return" to a Palestinian

state to be established alongside Israel. Palestinians were even willing to negotiate with Israel the rate of repatriation to a future Palestinian state, the delegate added.

Even without the ringing political declaration they had sought, Palestinians still see the Ottawa talks as a major breakthrough, since they marked the first time that exiles from outside the occupied territories had been invited to take part in official peace talks.

At last fall's Madrid peace conference and subsequent bilateral negotiations, only Palestinians from the occupied territories were represented and exiles were excluded at Israel's insistence.

"What this means is in the long term, the Madrid formula has been broken and cannot endure," said one delegate.

In Washington, Arabs and Israel concluded Thursday a four-day arms control conference without agreeing how to reverse the Mideast weapons buildup but determined to swap confidence-building proposals at follow-up talks "sooner rather than later."

The proposals would include a "hot-line" Israel would like to

(Continued on page 5)

## Shamir: U.S. wants Israel at pre-1967 boundaries

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has accused the United States of trying to force Israel off nearly all the land occupied by the Jewish state in the 1967 Middle East war.

"The United States truly wants to send us back to the 1967 borders with minor border adjustments," said Mr. Shamir, who has sparred with Washington over Jewish settlement of the occupied lands that are home to the Palestinians.

He told the newspaper Haaretz in an interview published on Friday: "The difference between this administration and its predecessors is that it shows firmness in implementing these positions, while previous administrations, relied on these things being resolved in negotiations."

Washington regards the settlement of Jews in the occupied territories as an obstacle to Arab-Israeli peace talks launched last October in Madrid.

Mr. Shamir said the settlements eliminated any prospect of the emergence of a Palestinian state, which he says would threaten Israel's survival.

His Likud Party is battling Yitzhak Rabin's Labour Party for power in a closely-fought election on June 23. Labour would swap some occupied territory for peace, Likud says it will not.

Mr. Shamir, 76, said his successors would have to negotiate the

future of the occupied territories. He said he was personally incapable of making "territorial concessions."

He admitted having "all sorts of ideas" about a permanent solution and said he even discussed them with George Shultz, who was U.S. President Ronald Reagan's secretary of state in the 1980s.

"I don't want to disclose them because if we will begin to discuss it, we won't achieve any immediate progress," he said, adding that the focus must be on negotiations for an interim period of self-rule.

"A period of interim arrangement will give the Palestinians much more than what they have, because today they have nothing," Mr. Shamir said.

Mr. Shamir voiced his irritation with the U.S. State Department for saying this week it still supported a 43-year-old United Nations resolution backing the right of Palestinians to return to their homes in Palestine.

He expressed surprise that Secretary of State James Baker went ahead with regional Middle East peace talks on refugees and economic development in Canada and Belgium this week without Israel's agreement.

Mr. Shamir's government boycotted the talks because they included Palestinians from outside the occupied territories.

## Azeris revolt

BAKU, Azerbaijan (R) — Thousands of nationalists seized Azerbaijan's parliament after a fierce gunbattle on Friday and declared the opposition Popular Front in control of the former Soviet republic.

A crowd of some 30,000 jammed into the square outside parliament, cheering and shouting to celebrate what they said was victory over President Ayzat Mutalibov.

The front also took control of Azerbaijan's television and one of its leaders went on the air to declare victory.

"The popular front now controls almost everything in the republic," Isa Gambarov, a senior front member, said.

Mr. Mutalibov's whereabouts were unknown. Parliament had restored the former Communist Party chief to power on Thursday, two months after a defeat in Azerbaijan's territorial conflict with Armenia had forced him from office.

Mr. Gambarov described parliament action as a constitutional coup. There was no immediate word on casualties. "We lost some people," a front official said, but gave no details.

Mr. Mutalibov had declared a state of emergency in the Transcaucasian republic, banned political activity and cancelled presidential elections scheduled for June 7.

## 'Reformists' score stunning victory over Islamists in Irbid polls

By Mariam M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Islamists suffered an unexpected defeat this week-end after a "Reformist Bloc" won a landslide victory in Irbid's Municipal Council elections.

The Reformist Bloc, led by Sami Ibrahim, trounced the Islamic Bloc by a large margin in what was considered by political observers to be an important indicator of political trends in the north of the country.

Islamists had dominated the Irbid Municipal Council for the past 12 years and many political observers had expected the municipality to continue to be dominated by them. The 1989 parliamentary elections only gave more fuel to the belief that the governorate was an Islamic stronghold. Of the nine legislative seats five were won by Islamic candidates in that election.

In explaining Friday's results, observers in Irbid said the Islamists might have lost simply because they had not been able to cure all the municipality's ills and "it was time to give others a chance."

Dr. Abdul Razak Tubehat, who is now minister of municipalities, had been mayor of Irbid until his appointment as minister in a cabinet reshuffle in September last year. Dr. Tubehat had enjoyed the support of the Islamists, but it remains unclear whether he has official ties with them.

"It would be wrong to say that Irbid is ideologically in favour of Islamists or reformists," said a local political observer close to the Islamists after the election results were announced Friday. "People might have wanted to give reformists a chance this time," he told the Jordan Times.

The landslide victory of the Reformist Bloc in which they won 11 of the 12 seats on the council, however, "was a surprise to most people," the source admitted.

For the past few years the municipality had been run by Islamists close to the Muslim Brotherhood as opposed to independent Islamists in the years before that. Islamists claimed Friday that that group of people had been pressured by "people close to the government" not to run. The Jordan Times was unable to find more than the claim

to support the contention, however.

Irbid-based observers said that those running on the Islamist ticket were not well-known and certainly not as popular as Dr. Tubehat and his colleagues who won the last three elections.

The observers also said that the Islamists did not launch a strong election campaign while the Reformist Bloc did.

"It could have been one of two things," said a veteran observer. "Either the Islamists were overconfident or they did not campaign too hard as part of some sort of political trade off, presumably with the government," said the source, who asked not to be identified.

A supporter of the Islamists conceded that "the Islamists became known for serving only their own constituents and thus fell out of favour with those who had no politically organized links with them." Only the leader of the Islamic Bloc, Fakhri Swelleh, won a seat on the council from the 12 candidates fielded by the Islamists. He won over 8,000 votes compared to nearly 14,000 votes won by Mr. Ibrahim.

## King, Queen begin visit to London

In the Hague speech, King outlines 8 principles for regional order

LONDON (Agencies) — Their Majesty King Hussein and Queen Noor arrived in London from the Hague Friday. Shortly after arrival King Hussein had a meeting with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd.

On Thursday in the Hague, King Hussein met with the Dutch prime minister and discussed with him relations between Jordan and the Netherlands and the European Community (EC) and the Kingdom.

The meeting also discussed the Middle East peace process and Jordan's role in it and stressed the need for Europe to contribute to advancing the process.

The King, who is accompanied

by Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and Royal Court Chief Khalid Al Karaki, also met with Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe, who is taking part in an international seminar held in the Hague. The two leaders discussed ways of enhancing relations between Jordan and Zimbabwe and reviewed Arab and African issues.

In a speech to the international seminar in the Hague, the King outlined eight principles to establish a new order in the Middle East.

These included: The need for regimes enjoying constitutional legitimacy based on the right of

the individual to express views, thoughts and beliefs; the international community should adopt an even-handed and balanced approach to address the problems of the region; the right of the people to utilise their resources for their own economic and social development in their own perspective; democracy and respect for human rights in the region; opportunities for education and access to culture; freeing the area from weapons of mass destruction; a collective approach to the problems of security, development and human rights; an end to inter-Arab divisions, and the elimination of the root causes for frustration, anger and despair

among the Arabs. (See full text of the King's speech on page 4)

The King also met with a Jordanian economic delegation which is visiting the Netherlands for talks with Dutch officials on bilateral relations. At the meeting, the King stressed the need to promote cooperation between the private sectors in Jordan and the Netherlands.

Queen Noor Thursday visited an international flowers exhibition, which is held in the Hague once every decade. Queen Noor discussed with Dutch officials the prospect of holding an exhibition of Jordanian heritage and archaeology in the Netherlands.

## Overall economic course excellent — Nabulsi

CBJ governor reviews IMF programme, debts, budget, balance of payment, inflation, bank credits and dinar

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's economic performance has exceeded all expectations this year and the Kingdom is firmly on course towards recovery as set out by the revival and restructuring programme it has agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), according to Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi.

In a luncheon meeting with newspaper editors and economic writers Thursday, Dr. Nabulsi expressed confidence that the reforms in the economy were bearing fruit in terms of the budget deficit, balance of payment and national growth.

"Our reform efforts are proceeding very well and the performance of the efforts in our budget and balance of payment situation is excellent," Dr. Nabulsi said.

"We have achieved better re-

sults than envisaged under the programme agreed with the IMF."

In the meeting, attended by senior officials of the bank and other economic experts, Dr. Nabulsi presented the various aspects of the Jordanian economy.

The national economy growth — in terms of gross domestic product (GDP) — will be between three and four per cent which, he said, will be compatible with the population growth.

Dr. Nabulsi recalled that economic growth in the latter part of the 80s was slow and sometimes negative and that it declined by 10 per cent in real terms as a result of the Gulf crisis.

"This was catastrophic," he said. "But we managed to rectify the course during 1991 and achieved a minimum growth. During this year the growth rate is expected to be three or four per cent — a rate that is parallel with the growth in population."

According to the CBJ governor, if the private sector invests wisely



Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi and the government does its job properly the growth rate during 1993 and beyond could be far higher than what is expected. — Inflation in the first quarter of

1992 was 4.2 per cent while it was 8.2 per cent for the year 1991, 16.1 in 1990 and 25.8 in 1989.

The budget deficit dropped from 24 per cent of the GDP in 1988 to 20.3 per cent in 1989, in 17.7 per cent in 1991 and is expected to be 14 per cent in 1992.

The economic programme aims at reducing the budget deficit to three or four per cent in the next few years. "This will be a major achievement that meets all international standards," Dr. Nabulsi said.

Similarly, the deficit in the balance of payment dropped to 16.3 in 1990 from 16.7 in 1989, but in 1992 the balance of payment posted a surplus of 0.2 per cent. Dr. Nabulsi said he expected the trend to continue and at the same rate of improvement for this year.

Jordan has managed to schedule debt repayments due to foreign governments grouped under the Paris Club until mid-

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## Iran urges Non-Aligned Movement to back Libya

NUSA DUA, Indonesia (R) — Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati on Friday urged the Non-Aligned Movement to back Libya against U.S. pressure to surrender two suspects in the Lockerbie airline bombing.

Iran's support came a day after Libyan Foreign Minister Ibrahim Mohammad Beshari said in this Bali resort his country was prepared to cut all links to terrorist organisations, in line with U.N. Resolution 731, but would deal with the Lockerbie suspects itself.

"Countries like the United States want to interfere in the affairs of another country on the pretext of fulfilling resolutions of the United Nations," Mr. Velayati said in an interview.

Tehran approved of Libya's decision to deal with the two men, accused of carrying out the bombing over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988 that killed 270 people, he said.

"Even if the government decides to hand over the two men to anybody or any country, it is up

to them," he said on the last day of a two-day non-aligned foreign ministers' conference, paving the way for a summit in Jakarta in September.

Mr. Velayati said it was up to the movement now to stand behind Libya.

"It should express its sympathy to the people of Libya who they are under pressure from some countries," he said in apparent reference to the United States and Britain.

Mr. Velayati urged the Non-Aligned Movement to intervene in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

He said it could send a delegation to start talks between the rival factions in the fighting, which escalated after the collapse of a ceasefire on Thursday. The violence has led to a pullout of EC monitors.

Yugoslav delegates in Bali for the conference said they do not want the Non-Aligned Movement to step in.

## Arens says death squad reports helping Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Defence Minister Moshe Arens denied that Israel operates death squads against Palestinians in the occupied territories but said news reports of the undercover teams had prompted activists to turn themselves in.

"Hardly a day goes by without a wanted man turning himself in," Mr. Arens told the daily newspaper Hadashot in an interview published on Friday.

"It seems to them that what they read in the press on assassination squads is, in fact, correct."

Israeli and Palestinian human rights groups accuse army undercover units of shooting to kill Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza without warning. Rights activists said many were unarmed.

The army has acknowledged it "adjusted" regulations on opening fire this year but has denied having a shoot-to-kill policy. It refuses to detail the orders.

"There are no assassination orders and there are no assassination units," Mr. Arens told the newspaper.

A Palestinian wood seller was shot and killed Friday by men dressed in Israeli army uniforms, but the army claimed the assailants were Arabs, not soldiers.

The shooting in the occupied Gaza Strip marked the latest twist in the confrontation between Palestinians and Israeli soldiers, who often disguise themselves as Arabs to catch wanted men.

The army said in a statement that three "Arabs" dressed as Israeli soldiers fired shots from a car in Gaza City on Friday, killing Mohammad Jouha, 20. The shooting was witnessed by soldiers from an army observation post nearby, the army said.

Palestinian reporters identified the victim as Iman Mohammad Jouha Guvri. They said they did not know Guvri, a wood seller, was killed.

## Lebanese warlord demands new blood in cabinet

BEIRUT (R) — Right-wing Christian warlord Samir Geagea threatened to boycott Lebanon's new government if it did not bring in new blood to tackle a devastating economic crisis.

But newly appointed Prime Minister Rashid Al Solh resisted demands by Dr. Geagea and other militia leaders turned politicians and instead sought President Elias Hrawi's support on Friday to form a government.

Dr. Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces (LF), said new faces must be included to produce some confidence that the government could halt a steep economic decline.

"We will not take part and we will oppose behaviour like that of (Prime Minister Omar) Karami's cabinet... we will be on the opposition side and no Lebanese

forces members will join the cabinet," he told Reuters in an interview.

Dr. Geagea, traditionally opposed to an influential Syrian role, said forming an unbalanced government would produce the same problems that crippled Mr. Karami's team, which repeatedly had to send envoys to Damascus to resolve its internal disputes.

He refused to join the Karami government formed in December 1990, arguing it was weighted in favour of allies of Damascus, the main political and military power broker in Lebanon.

Minister of State Roger Dib represented him in that cabinet.

Appointed prime minister on Wednesday to revive Lebanon's war-torn economy and attract foreign aid and investment, Mr. Solh swiftly came under pressure from

former warlords demanding more political power.

Druze leader Walid Junblatt and Nabih Berri, who heads the Shiite Amal movement, are both asking for a greater number of cabinet posts than their parties held in the Karami cabinet.

The warlords, whose militias were disbanded last year, had posts in the Karami cabinet which was ousted by riots last week by workers demanding an end to the Lebanese pound's collapse.

The Karami cabinet also came under fire both in Lebanon and abroad for failing to end widespread official corruption.

The Lebanese pound, buoyed Mr. Solh was appointed, weakened slightly against the dollar on Friday to close at 1,570, compared with Thursday's close of 1,520, the central bank said.

Mr. Solh discussed suggestions from members of parliament on the composition of his administration with Mr. Hrawi and said he would return to the president's office for more talks later on Friday.

"We reviewed all the remarks and demands of the (parliament) deputies I consulted over the past two days. We hope to end this problem and form a new government as soon as possible," Mr. Solh told reporters.

Official sources said a cabinet might be named on Friday but others said they expected it to take perhaps another 48 hours. Mr. Solh, a conservative who last served as premier at the start of Lebanon's civil war in 1975, was quoted by the Al Safir daily on Friday as telling parliamentarians that he would not give in.



# Jordan optimistic of end to Red Sea shipping problems

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanian businessmen and shipping agents are optimistic that an end is in sight for the problems faced by Jordanian importers by the strict enforcement of the sanctions against Iraq. The optimism stems from what is seen as a recent climb-down from what many describe as intentional harassment of Jordan-bound cargo as part of the sanctions against Iraq and a meeting earlier this month a delegation representing the enforcers of the embargo.

The other side of the affair is an assertion by diplomats from countries represented in the enforcement group that Jordanian importers and shippers have "learned from their experience and now know what is expected of them to avert shipping problems."

Tawfiq Kavar, president of the Jordan Shipping Agents Association (SAA), reported to a meeting of the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) last week that the outcome of the May 4 meeting in Aqaba with the delegation representing the Multinational Maritime Interception Forces (MMIF) was positive in sorting out procedural issues related to maritime cargo bound for Jordan.

Shipments addressed to consignees in Iraq are permitted to enter Aqaba as long as they are accompanied by a certificate from the U.N. Sanctions Committee in line with Article 20 of Security Council Resolution 687 which exempts food and medicine from the embargo.

Noting that the MMIF delegation was not authorised to

discuss the policy related to the enforcement of sanctions (U.S. officials affirmed that there was no shift in policy) but only operational matters, Mr. Kavar told the ICC meeting in Marrakech, Morocco, that progress was made on:

— Relaxing the strict application of documentation requirements;

— Ending "harsh treatment" of crew;

— Improving facilities to inspect to containerised cargo;

— Affirming that there was no restriction on the nature of goods as long as they are bound of Jordan — free zone or otherwise; and

— Improving accessibility to cargo.

However, other problems remain, Mr. Kavar said. These include obligatory calls on non-Jordanian ports before proceeding to Aqaba. Under the present enforcement regulations, non-Jordan bound cargo, particularly containers, are also closely inspected. To circumvent this problem vessels heading for Aqaba discharge non-Jordan cargo at other Red Sea ports and reload them after calling at Aqaba.

This means, according to Mr. Kavar, "sailing south-bound, to re-route itinerary and call twice at other Red Sea ports, re-stow containers, pay additional costs, port dues etc."

As a result, only 20 shipping lines now operate to Aqaba compared with 41 before the Gulf crisis, Mr. Kavar pointed out.

The SAA is suggesting the sealing of hatches and holds carrying non-Jordan bound cargo by the enforcers at the Tiran Straits and reinspection of the seals as the vessels sail

out to ensure that no such cargo is unloaded at Aqaba.

The MMIF team "pointed out that this a question of policy but will pass (the proposal) to higher authorities," Mr. Kavar said.

Other issues dealt with during the meeting were means for quick inspection of cruise ships and empty containers taken out of Aqaba.

Normally, the enforcers carry out their inspection during daylight and this poses a problem for passenger vessels which pass the Tiran Straits to and from Aqaba at night since they have to wait until daylight (although certain exceptions were made recently).

The inspection of empty containers is another problem since the enforcers are particularly about meticulously checking every outgoing vessel to ensure that no goods of Iraqi origin are aboard. Present rules limit container stacking to three and the SAA requested that this be relaxed to five in view of the thousands of empties lying at Aqaba port awaiting transport to their points of origin or further cargo.

According to Mr. Kavar the backing of the ICC and its Sea Transport Commission (STC) was highly instrumental in alleviating the difficulties faced by Jordanian importers and shippers.

The gist of what Mr. Kavar told the ICC is expected to be circulated among shippers, importers and exporters, brokers, bankers and others so that they could comply with the requirements of inspection at the Red Sea and avoid problems.

According to American Central Command figures, the enforcers have intercepted



The container area of the port of Aqaba

over 13,000 vessels since the sanctions were imposed against Iraq following its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait; about 4,000 were boarded and 250 were denied entry. Most vessels either discharged Jordan-bound cargo at other Red Sea ports and proceeded on their way or came back to Aqaba after unloading the "suspect" cargo.

Officials said the Aqaba meeting came after months of efforts and high-level intervention and was coordinated with the American embassy in Amman.

No comment on the meeting was immediately available from the embassy.

"Since Aqaba is the only inlet for Iraq-bound maritime cargo, Jordan bears the brunt of the inspection of vessels in the Red Sea. The loss to the national economy as a result of the delays and diversion of ships is

estimated to run into tens of millions of dollars.

"The 'accessibility' requirement — which implies clear space for movement of inspectors into cargo holds — is costing the importers higher freight charges, particularly in cases of chartered vessels."

"In some cases, only two thirds of the cargo space can be used since pathways have to be cleared for inspectors to enter the holds," said an importer.

"This means a loss of one third of the freight," he pointed out.

An apparent shift in the tough imposition of the enforcement is clear since last month after the issue was raised at the highest level between Jordan and the United States, whose navy leads the enforcement group, according to shippers.

Bnt, said one Western diplomat, "there is no change in the enforcement regime, but it seems that Jordanian shippers

and importers are now closely familiar with the procedures involved and are complying with the requirements."

"Needless to say compliance with the requirements means preempting problems," said the diplomat.

Only one vessel, the Gulf Star, carrying general cargo faced problems during the month of April compared in two in March and six in February. The Gulf Star managed to meet the accessibility requirements of the enforcers after rearranging cargo aboard while at sea without docking at any port and thus was able to proceed to Aqaba one week after it was intercepted in late April, said Sufian Al Muhaisen, a senior SAA official.

"We are very much encouraged by the meeting with the MMIF and are optimistic that things could ease soon," he told the Jordan Times.

## U.N. appeals for urgent help for Afghanistan

KABUL (Agencies) — A U.N. envoy warned Friday the tenuous peace between rival guerrilla groups could discourage international assistance to bring home the world's largest refugee population and rebuild a country devastated by 14 years of civil war.

A temporary truce between the new Islamic interim government and renegade fundamentalist rebels led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar expires next week.

Although talks are under way and the capital has been free of deadly random rockets, Mr. Hekmatyar has threatened 14 more years of war and another two million casualties in his bid to seize power.

"The interest in helping Afghanistan is there, but whether the response will be as generous is uncertain. The list is shrinking and there are many demands from so many emergencies — Cambodia, the Horn of Africa, Yugoslavia, Eastern Europe, Central Asia. Afghans have to compete with these emergencies," said Benon Sevan, the special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali.

"The situation could be compounded. If there's no peace, if there's no order, we will have problems getting aid," he said. "But the ceasefire is holding, talks are going on and that gives us hope."

The war between the U.S.-backed guerrillas and a succession of governments propped up by the former Soviet Union caused enormous devastation to Afghanistan, one of the world's poorest countries even in peacetime. The fighting left at least two million Afghans dead, third mil-

## Israelis capture Palestinian after four-day manhunt

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — A Palestinian serving a life sentence for allegedly killing an Israeli soldier was recaptured early on Friday four days after he escaped from a police van, police said.

A policeman told reporters that he and a civil guard volunteer found Jamil Ismail Al Baz, 34, at a roadside near the city of Ashkelon. Baz said he was hungry and did not resist arrest.

Hundreds of policemen and soldiers combed Israel after Baz broke out of his leg irons and slipped away on Monday while he was being returned to Ashkelon prison from a court hearing in Beersheba.

His two escorts, sitting in the front seat, were apparently unaware for some time that he was missing from the back seat.

Baz, an activist in the Islamic resistance movement (Hamas), was jailed for life for "intentionally running down a soldier in July last year."

Baz' escape was the top story on Israeli television and radio newscasts this week. Police, embarrassed about letting him slip, had been combing southern Israel with helicopters and foot patrols.

In the end, Baz was caught by a policeman on the way home from work with a volunteer of the civil guard.

The volunteer, Eliezer Lugassi, said he and the policeman, Mohammad Hajjar, were driving north towards Ashkelon when they saw the suspect standing by the side of the road and arrested him.

"It happened so quickly he (Baz) didn't even have time to react," Lugassi told Israel army

## Israel holds Egyptian suspect

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israeli authorities have held an Egyptian man for eight months on suspicion of infiltrating and spying on military installations, Israeli radios and television reported Thursday.

The suspect was identified only as being 45-years-old, and his trial was scheduled to begin Monday in a district court in the southern city of Beersheba, the reports said. The affair was censored for months, and lately it was banned from the press mainly to avoid obstructing Israel's efforts to free four Israelis held by Egypt on espionage suspicions, army radio said. The Israelis, detained late in January and held without being charged, were freed last week.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Israeli TV journalists win broadcast right

TEL AVIV (R) — Journalists said Israel's supreme court approved the televising of an investigative news programme on Friday night despite protests by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party. Judge Aharon Barak granted a request by the Israel Journalists Association to temporarily bar the state broadcasting authority from switching the programme to another day, which would cut the audience by half. No date was announced for a hearing to resolve the issue. The programme "Weekly magazine" angered Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's Likud Party by reporting corruption in Ariel Sharon's housing ministry and the cold-blooded killing of Arabs by undercover army units. Mr. Sharon and the army both denied the charges. The television board had ordered the weekly show be moved from Friday evenings, when some 1.7 million viewers gather for the start of the Jewish Sabbath. Journalists accused Likud of infringing press freedom for fear the reports would harm its chances in a June 23 national election.

### Tremor shakes Turkey; no damage reported

ANKARA (R) — An earth tremor measuring 4.5 on the Richter scale shook western Turkey on Friday but Anatolian news agency said there were no casualties or damage. The tremor was most strongly felt in Aydin province. It also slightly shook the Aegean provinces of Izmir, Mugla, Denizli, Usak and Manisa.

### Egyptian official visits S. Africa

CAIRO (R) — A senior Egyptian official is in South Africa on the first visit of his kind since Cairo severed diplomatic relations in 1961. Egyptian officials said on Friday that Said Rifaaat, an ambassador who heads Foreign Ministry's Africa Department, was attending talks on democratic reforms in Johannesburg. "Relations with South Africa are developing in line with developments towards ending apartheid," one official said. Amid signs of improved relations, the two countries agreed earlier this month to restore air links and the first South African flight to Egypt landed at Cairo airport on May 6. The officials said restoring formal ties hinged on a collective decision by the Organisation of African Unity, of which Egypt was a founder member. Mr. Rifaaat's trip was also in response to an exploratory visit to Cairo earlier this month by the director-general of the South African Foreign Ministry.

### 'Supergun' becomes museum pieces

LONDON (AP) — Nine sections of steel tube that were ordered by Iraq to build the world's largest cannon became museum pieces on Thursday. Other parts which were confiscated two years ago were shipped to a military laboratory for testing. The huge steel sections of the Iraqi weapon were confiscated by customs agents in April 1990. Five of the sections, each 6 metres long and weighing 10 tonnes, were sent to Fort Halstead in southeastern England, for testing by scientists, the Ministry of Defense said. The scientists hope to learn whether the supergun would have worked, and whether its design has application for low-cost satellite launches. The other sections of barrel have become displays at two museums. The Imperial War Museum in Duxford, near Cambridge, has 42 tonnes of supergun parts. The Royal Armouries Museum at Fort Nelson has pieces of a smaller gun called "Baby Babylon," which the Iraqis admitted test-firing four times. The Iraqis were required to dismantle the guns under the terms of the Gulf war armistice. The giant guns were designed by Canadian artillery specialist Gerald Bull, who was murdered in Brussels three weeks before the barrel sections were confiscated.

### Iran denies accusations against Italian diplomat

ROME (AP) — A potential conflict between Italy and Iran appeared to diminish after Iranian officials denied a report that they opposed accepting an Italian diplomat. The Tehran Times, a newspaper close to the Iranian government, recently called on Italy to withdraw the appointment of the diplomat, Saba D'Elia. Mr. D'Elia, a diplomat at the United Nations who was named number two at the embassy in Iran, was accused by the newspaper of having close ties with what it called Zionist power groups. It did not elaborate. Alessandro Di Franco, a spokesman at the Italian Foreign Ministry, said Iranian officials claim they do not agree with the accusations. "The Iranians are now investigating the case and assure us they were unaware of the newspaper's intentions in publishing these accusations," Mr. Di Franco said. Despite the denials, it was unclear if Mr. D'Elia would still go to Iran. "Something negative still remains in the air, D'Elia's hesitation is understandable," Mr. Di Franco said. Italy's ambassador to Iran, Vittorio Amedeo Farinelli, is discussing the matter with Iranian officials.

### Kuwait, U.S. to hold Patriot exercise

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. and Kuwaiti military forces will conduct a joint training exercise in Kuwait next week to train the emirate's forces in the use of Patriot anti-aircraft missiles, the Defense Department said. The United States in March agreed to sell six Patriot batteries and 450 missiles to Kuwait. The weapons were used to defend Saudi Arabia and Israel against Iraqi Scud missiles during the Gulf war. The Pentagon said the seven-day joint exercise would begin on Monday under last year's defense cooperation agreement between the United States and Kuwait. One Patriot battery will be sent to Kuwait for the exercise along with about 80 American troops from the 43rd Air Defense Artillery Regiment based in Hanau, Germany. In addition to the Patriots, the planned \$2.5 billion anti-aircraft sale to Kuwait will include six Hawk missile batteries and 342 missiles. Despite a worldwide push by President George Bush to reduce the sale of arms to the Middle East, the White House has made clear it will continue to support Israel and friendly Arab states which need defensive weapons. The Bush administration last December announced the sale of 14 Patriot batteries and 758 missiles to the Saudis for \$3.3 billion.



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University of Jordan

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- Babiche, Tel. 661322
- The Royal Cultural Center, Tel. 661026
- The American Cultural Center, Tel. 641520
- The National Music Conservatory, Tel. 637620

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

### JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 77311-19

#### PROGRAMME TWO

- 18:00 Les Tortues Ninja
- 18:30 La Famille Fontaine
- 19:00 News in French
- 19:15 Scientific magazine
- 19:30 News in Hebrew
- 20:00 News in Arabic
- 20:30 Encounter
- 21:00 Super Bloppery
- 22:00 News in English
- 22:30 Jordan's Heart

#### PRAYER TIMES

- 04:06 Fajr
- 05:35 Sunrise/Duha
- 12:53 Dhuh
- 16:12 Maghrib
- 19:29 Isha

#### CHURCHES

- St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish, Tel. 810740
- Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637385
- St. Joseph Church Tel. 624900
- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440
- De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
- Terraviva Church Tel. 622366
- Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 629543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771351

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 773261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Armenian International Church Tel. 683226

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

#### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Gradual drop in temperatures will take place and some clouds will appear at various altitudes making it possible for scattered showers of rain to fall. Winds will be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

Amman Min./Max. temp. 15 / 26  
Aqaba 20 / 34  
Dead Sea 15 / 29  
Jordan Valley 18 / 32

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 29, Aqaba 37 Humidity readings:

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

#### NIGHT DUTY

- AMMAN: Dr. Zein Zaghloul 638591
- Dr. Mohammad Manana 741444
- Dr. Youssef Rasheed 996301
- Dr. Mohammad Al-Bawli 778959
- Firas pharmacy 661912
- Ferdous pharmacy 778336
- Al Asas pharmacy 637055
- Natroukh pharmacy 623672
- Al Salem pharmacy 636730
- Yacoub pharmacy 644945
- Samciani pharmacy 637660

IRBID: Dr. Mazen Sharairi (—)

Al Shairi pharmacy (273825)

ZARQA: Dr. Rafeh Atallah (—)

Khalifeh pharmacy 985417

### EMERGENCIES

- Food Control Centre 637111
- Civil Defence Department 661111
- Civil Defence Immediate Rescue 630341
- Civil Defence Emergency 199
- Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
- Fire Brigade 891228
- Blood Bank 773121
- Highway Police 843402
- Traffic Police 896390
- Public Security Department 63021
- Price Complaints 605800
- Hotel Complaints 661176
- Water and Sewerage 66121
- Complaints 897467
- Amman Municipality 787111
- Complaints 787111
- Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
- Overseas Calls 010230
- Central Amman Telephone Repairs 623101
- Abdull Telephone Repairs 661101
- Jordan Television 773111
- Radio Jordan 774111
- Water Authority 680100
- Jordan Electricity Authority 815615

### Electric Power

- Company 636381
- RJ Flight Information 08-53200
- Queen Alia Int'l Airport 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

- AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
- Khalil Maternity, J. Am. 64281/6
- Akileh Maternity, J. Am. 64241/2
- Jabal Amman Maternity 642362
- Matina, J. Amman 636140
- Italian, Al-Mulajjem 77118/3
- Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 77511/26
- Army, Marka 89161/15
- Queen Alia Hospital 60240/50
- Amal Hospital 674155
- ZARQA: Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323
- Zarga National Hospital (09)900560
- Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
- Al Hikma Modern Hospital (09)999990

### IRBID:

- Princess Basma Hospital (02)275595
- Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
- Ibn Al Nafies Hospital (02)247100

### AQABA:

- Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department in the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

### ARRIVALS

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

- 06:00 Kuala Lumpur, Singapore (RJ)
- 08:00 Damascus (RJ)
- 18:30 Dhahira (RJ)
- 18:30 Cairo (RJ)

- 18:30 Aqaba (RJ)
- 18:40 New Delhi (RJ)
- 18:45 Karachi, Dubai (RJ)
- 19:20 Colombo (RJ)
- 19:30 Beirut (RJ)
- 16:05 Samra (TY)
- 17:45 Frankfurt (RJ)
- 28:15 Vienna (RJ)
- 22:00 Rome (RJ)
- 02:00 Madrid (RJ)
- 03:30 Helsinki, Aqaba (RJ)

### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

- 07:30 Paris, Damascus (AF)
- 09:15 Beirut (ME)
- 14:00 Samra (TY)
- 08:30 Damascus, Paris (AF)

### MARKET PRICES

#### Up/down price in Jls per kg

- Apple (red) 200 / 450
- Banana 300 / 450
- Banana (Makassar) 350 / 500
- Beans 350 / 250
- Cabbage 100 / 50
- Carrot 300 / 220
- Cauliflower 180 / 120
- Cucumbers (large) 80 / 40
- Cucumbers (small) 180 / 120
- Eggplant 280 / 150
- Garlic 1000 / 800
- Lemon 70 / 40
- Marrow (large) 150 / 100
- Marrow (small) 210 / 100
- Onion (dry) 150 / 100
- Onion (green) 150 / 100
- Orange 380 / 220
- Pepper (hot) 250 / 200
- Pepper (sweet) 250 / 200
- Potato 300 / 250
- Radish 150 / 100
- Sage 600 / 500
- Spinach 150 / 100
- Tomato 320 / 250

#### Other Flights (Terminal 2)

- 12:00 Samra (TY)
- 18:20 Damascus, Paris (AF)
- 28:10 Rome (AZ)

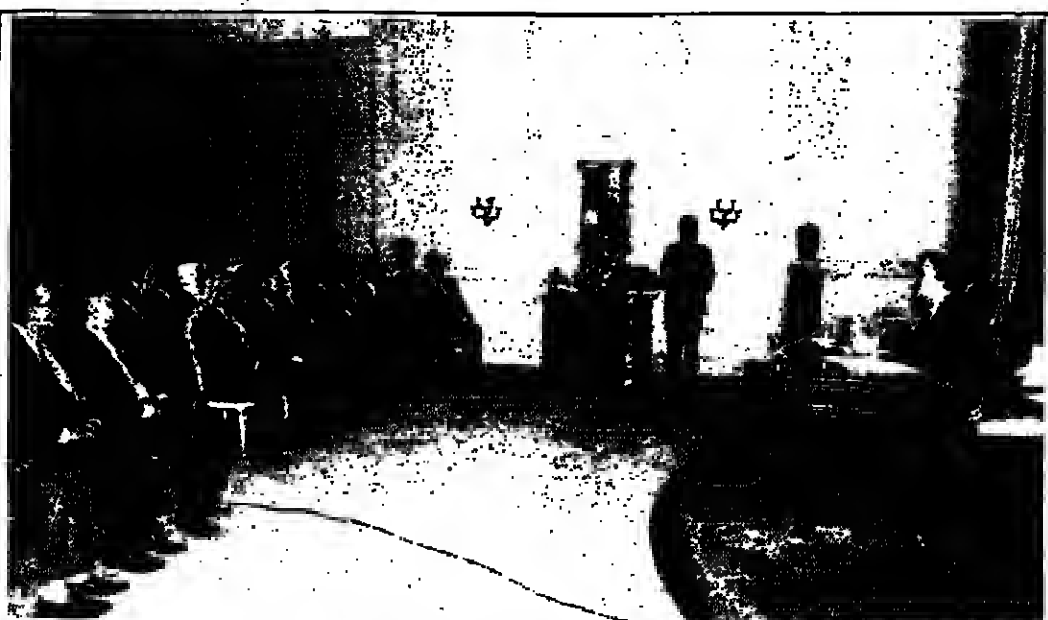
#### DEPARTURES

#### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

- 07:15 Beirut (RJ)
- 08:00 Aqaba (RJ)
- 09:45 Aqaba, Vienna (RJ)
- 11:45 Aqaba, Helsinki (RJ)
- 12:20 Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
- 12:50 Geneva, Paris (RJ)
- 13:10 London (RJ)
- 13:15 Frankfurt (RJ)
- 14:00 Rome (RJ)
- 14:15 Madrid (RJ)
- 14:15 Jeddah (RJ)
- 01:00 Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)

جستار





**JESORS MEET WITH REGENT** — Retired army officers affiliated with the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for Retired Servicemen (JESORS) met His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, at the Royal Court and presented him with proposals for improving the living conditions of the retired officers on the one hand and develop JESORS on the other. The retired officers, from the Zarqa, Balqa and Amman governorates, heard the Crown Prince's views about means of JESORS development and a briefing by a senior army officer on a recent study on ways to help JESORS members to contribute more positively to the country's socio-economic development. The Regent suggested that JESORS

members set up working groups to deal with the different issues of concern. Prince Hassan underlined the JESORS role in economic and social development, urging the audience to embark on a practical and scientific study based on sound and accurate data before undertaking any projects. He also noted that JESORS could benefit from the facilities offered to its members by the Jordanian Armed Forces and the official government departments in overcoming problems. The JESORS, which was established in 1974, has been implementing various economic projects including agricultural schemes in the Jordan Valley, benefiting JESORS members.

## Agricultural corporation to allocate funds

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC), which is charged with the task of offering loans to Jordanian farmers, has made plans and allocated funds to offer loans totalling JD 1.2 million to the needy farmers and vegetable growers in the country, according to Minister of Agriculture Fayez Khasawneh.

The ACC, established by the government in 1960s to help farmers carry out agricultural schemes, has so far granted local farmers JD 37 million, said the minister at a press conference held at his office Thursday.

To help farmers carry out further projects, the government is now undertaking and supporting the creation of a Jordanian

farmers association to shoulder some of the responsibilities in promoting the agricultural sector, the minister noted.

Dr. Khasawneh urged farmers to grow more and more fruit trees, noting that there are good opportunities for exporting fruits. At the same time, he said, the ministry is going ahead with a project for the greening of the Kingdom by the year 2000, as directed by His Majesty King Hussein. The ministry's outcries continue to produce millions of tree-saplings, the minister noted.

The lack of sufficient water for irrigation, the presence of certain pests harmful to crops in the past years and the retreat in Jordan's crop exports led to some comple-

xities in the agricultural sector, noted the minister.

Changes in agricultural policies to cope with the changing needs of the local and foreign markets, said the minister, was something acceptable to the ministry, noting that the ministry's departments will restrict their role to guidance and coordination of matters related to crop production, thereby leaving the farmers with total freedom to decide on their own farming business.

The minister said that the ACC has become the sole source for loans to farmers and all the former debts to farmers due to the Jordan Valley Farmers Association and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation having been referred to the ACC.

## VTC holds exhibition of training centres' products

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Deputising for His Majesty King Hussein, Minister of Labour Abdul Karim Al Kabarti Friday opened an exhibition of the Vocational Training Corporation's (VTC) products on Greater Amman Municipality premises.

VTC officials said that the five-day exhibition will display items from 24 centres, noting that all items could be sold through special arrangements between the VTC and various Jordanian firms.

The exhibition, which marks the VTC's 15th anniversary, aims to promote the role of vocational training and its important contribution towards socio-economic development in the Kingdom, said the officials.

Products displayed by the 24 participating centres can be bought by the private and public sectors at very competitive prices and the exhibition is there in order to draw the attention of all citizens and provide evidence of the ability of Jordanian citizens to produce high quality products, they noted.

According to VTC officials, the items were produced by trainees in electricity, auto mechanics, welding, metallurgy, central heating, sanitation work, refrigeration and air conditioning, woodwork, carpentry, construction and building, radio and television



Abdul Karim Al Kabarti

repair, printing and press, total management, sewing and knitting, artificial flower making, ceramics, children's toys, hair dressing, confectioneries and leather industries.

The VTC officials noted that since its establishment in 1976, the corporation has been training Jordanians in trades needed by the local labour market.

The exhibition, which is being held at the Amman Municipality Building, is also being organised to mark the Kingdom's independence anniversary this month.

The opening ceremony was attended by the ministry's secretary general, director of the VTC, a number of sector government officials and members of the diplomatic corps in Jordan.

## Jerusalem-based society to assist in restoration

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Building on His Majesty King Hussein's initiative to donate \$8.25 million from his own funds to help restore the Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Rock, representatives of the Jerusalem-based voluntary societies and their counterparts in Amman Thursday held a meeting and discussed ways and means through which they can support King Hussein's efforts and those of the government.

The meeting came up with the formation of a constituent committee.

A committee member, Dawud Sulaiman Daoud, who is also a former member of parliament for Jerusalem constituency, said the committee will call for a people's conference next week to work out a plan of action in preparation for launching a fund-raising campaign to help restore the holy places in the occupied Arab city of Jerusalem.

The money collected will be channelled to the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs and the special committee for the restoration of Al Aqsa Mosque.

## Crime rates in Jordan among lowest worldwide, says security director

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Public Security Department (PSD) Director Major General Fadel Ali Fuhaid Thursday said Jordan has never been and is not expected to be a scene for organised crime and described the crimes that took place over the past few years as "traditional crimes."

Speaking at a press conference, Major General Fuhaid said "rates of crime in Jordan are among the lowest worldwide," noting that these rates did not exceed 737 crimes per 100,000 persons.

He added that most of these crimes are "simple crimes" which result in minor injury or harm. He also said that the rate of crime discovery is one of the highest worldwide, noting that the rate of crimes discovered in 1991 was 89.3 per cent, against 85.6 per cent in 1990.

The PSD director further said that the rate of murder crimes in 1991 was 2 per 100,000 of the population, compared with three per 100,000 in 1990.

On the crimes committed this year, Major General Fuhaid said they are minor crimes whose effects do not exceed mere minor harm or injury.

Such crimes accounted for 33.9 per cent of the total number of crimes followed by thefts and

robberies, which accounted for 25.2 per cent, he said. He pointed out that the rate of crime has registered a minor increase over the past five years, saying that such an increase conforms with the pressures on resources and services.

He noted that there were some ugly crimes over the past few years. However, he said, such crimes take place everywhere and therefore we should be aware that political, economic and social changes can affect human behaviour and can consequently serve as a major cause for an increase in crime rates.

He warned of rumours which have been fabricated abroad with a view to negatively affect Jordanian citizens who are at this stage living and nurturing democracy and pursuing the struggle for peace.

He noted such rumours found their way to some people who have vested interests in spreading such rumours.

He called on the media to play a major role in informing people and empowering them to counter such rumours and to encourage them to shoulder their responsibility in safeguarding the country's security and stability.

Answering a question about

the crime that took place in Jabal Al Hussein, about two weeks ago which claimed the lives of five people, the PSD director said this crime has its own privacy and therefore the PSD has not yet published or released any information on it in order not to interrupt the investigation process. He added that the rumours and gossip surrounding the crime are in fact an invalid analysis, noting that the crime had its roots abroad.

He accused foreign parties of trying to suspect the ability of the security forces in a bid to create a gap between the citizens and national institutions.

On the narcotics problem in Jordan, the director said, "Jordan is neither a producing nor a consumer country of narcotics." However, he said, Jordan, in view of its geographic location, serves as a transit road for the trafficking of narcotics to consumer countries. He attributed the increase in trafficking narcotics to the low price of such material in the producing countries and the high prices in the consumer countries. He pointed out that the PSD teams last year seized 5,210 kilograms of hashish, in addition to heroin, opium and other narcotic pills.

## Environmental delegation leaves for Japan

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Jordan's delegation to the working group on the environment meetings, scheduled to open in Tokyo on May 18, is on its way to the Japanese capital.

The head of the Jordanian delegation to the meeting plans to submit a comprehensive working paper outlining the various environment-related problems facing the Kingdom, resulting

from the Middle East problem. Anis Muasher said in a pre-departure statement that the delegation will urge the world community to shoulder its responsibilities and redress the situation so that the Middle East region can once again enjoy peace and security.

Dr. Muasher, who is also president of the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN),

is leading a delegation comprising three members from the Ports Corporation, the RSCN and the Ministry of Water and Irrigation.

A just solution to the environmental issues of the Middle East region is bound to contribute to the establishment of a durable peace in implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, said Dr. Muasher.

## New blood bank to be established

By Nur Sati

**SPECIAL TO THE JORDAN TIMES**  
**AMMAN** — One of the current problems of the National Blood Bank at Al Bashir Hospital is the distance from the eastern side of Amman to the western side.

To make blood readily available in cases of emergencies for the hospitals, a new blood bank will be established in the western side of Amman in the coming three to four months, according to specialists.

Additionally, Jordan will have a mobile van which will be sent to different locations for people to donate blood.

The branch of the National Blood Bank is expected to receive up to 600 units of blood each month, Dr. Toby El Simon, president of Blood Systems in the U.S., said. "We hope its location will also increase volunteer blood donations in that area," he added.

Dr. Simon, who arrived in Jordan last Saturday, is acting as a consultant to the National Blood Bank and the development of the new branch. "The intention of the project is to make blood available for emergencies to the hospitals that are growing in West Amman,"

Dr. Simon said he has built many such branches, in the U.S., which support this kind of situation "where hospitals

are built and medical care develops at some distance from the central blood bank."

"We therefore build what is called a satellite or branch blood bank that can serve the needs of those operations," he said.

Under the auspices of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), Dr. Simon is looking at the kind of plans that were developed in the past for these branches. "Our organisation is going over them to see which of the plans are suitable or best fit or can best help in the design of the branch," he said.

Director of the Central Blood Bank at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Jannette Mirza, said there will be close cooperation between the two banks. The National Blood Bank branch will collect blood from the donors and transfer it to the National Blood Bank in order to separate them into components as well as test the blood. Later, the branch will be provided with the units and components which will be needed by patients in the hospitals, she added.

"I think having a blood bank in West Amman would encourage more people to come to donate in that area and it would also provide quick service to hospitals there," Dr. Mirza said.

Volunteer donors in Jordan number 21 per cent, according to Dr. Mirza. "We are doing our best to increase voluntary donations but we need more regular donors," she added, putting the figure of regular donors at 1.8 per cent.

"Many patients are coming to be treated in Jordan from the neighbouring countries and they are in need of blood and we have to be able to provide them with that blood," Dr. Mirza said. "Also in Jordan, there are patients who require blood all their lives (multi-transfused patients) so we need to have every healthy person give blood every three months in one of the 25 blood banks throughout the Kingdom," she added.

To make matters more convenient to the donors, Jordan will soon have mobile vans which can travel to different locations to attract blood donors, according to Dr. Simon. "It will be one that we had an experience with in the United States. It is very attractive to the donor," he said.

The mobile van will have three beds so that people can donate simultaneously. "We have received these vans custom-built in the U.S. so we are planning through USAID's assistance, to provide one of these for Jordan," Dr. Simon said.

## Jordan's pavilion at expo: Small but popular

**SEVILLE (J.T.)** — Out of 250,000 daily visitors to the Seville Universal Exposition 1992, a total of 30,000 visit the Jordanian pavilion, according to Jordan officials who are in charge of the Jordanian wing.

Although Jordan's pavilion of 400 square metres is relatively small, activities and exhibits make up for the small space, according to the Jordan national committee to the exposition.

It said that the Jordanian pavilion exhibits artefacts, pictures and archaeological pieces from most historical periods and civilisation and archaeological pieces from most historical periods and

civilisations that have left an imprint in Jordan tracing man's beginnings and progress.

According to the committee, the pavilion exhibits in particular artefacts from Umayyad period, during which the Islamic rule in Spain came into being.

Various aspects of the ancient Nabatean city of Petra, like the Siq and the treasury, as well as the ancient desert castles and the Madaba mosaic map are also on display.

One corner of the Jordanian pavilion is displaying aspects of urban civilisations in Jordan with models from Salt, together with jewellery samples and costumes,

as well as other aspects of socio-cultural life.

In addition, Jordan is providing a special rich cultural programme outside the pavilion which will be held during the last week of September. These include folk-dance and other images of Jordanian cultural life, the committee said.

A total of 110 countries, some 50 multi-national companies and more than 20 international organisations are participating in the exposition with pavilions or exhibits under the overall logo of "the age of discovery."

The Seville Universal Exposition was opened on April 20, 1992.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Hazem Al Bustani at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition of Iraqi artist Ali Al Mandali's works, inspired by poems of the great Arab poet Abdul Wahab Al Bayati, at the Spanish Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artist Mohammad Abu Zaid at Alfa Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by five Malaysian artists at the National Gallery of Fine Arts, Jabal Llewellyn.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Rida Hus Hus at the

- French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolls and Munira Al Tunisiyya at the Orthodox Club.
- ★ Photography exhibition entitled "Double Vision of Jordan" by Bernard Guillot and Jean-Philippe Reverdot at Hotel Jordan International.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Women in Development" by Abba Augustine and Maha Al Khattib at the Goethe Institute - 7 p.m.
- ★ Piano recital by Rula Nabed at the Royal Cultural Centre - 8 p.m.

## HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan attends Lebanese transport conference

**AMMAN (Petra)** — Deputy Prime Minister and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat left Amman for Beirut Thursday to take part in a Lebanese national conference on transport. The three-day conference, will discuss issues related to land, sea and air transport in Lebanon and the role of the transport sector in enhancing international relations. Mr. Suheimat's participation in the conference was in response to an invitation by the Lebanese minister of state for sea, land and air transport affairs.

### Cabinet discusses plans for library

**AMMAN (Petra)** — The cabinet has decided to set up a committee which will include representatives of the Ministries of Culture, Public Works and Housing and Planning, in addition to the Greater Amman Municipality, to follow up the implementation of a decision to establish a national library. The cabinet had previously allocated \$6 million for the project. Culture Minister Mahmoud Al Samara said Wednesday that the library will include halls for researchers and students and auditoriums, in addition to a conference hall. He said a Chinese government delegation will arrive in Amman soon to hold talks with Jordanian officials on the details of the project, which is financed by a Chinese loan.

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Jordan Times advertising department.

## Obligations of 194

BEHIND ISRAEL's refusal to deal with Palestinians from the diaspora in two areas of the multilateral peace talks, namely the Brussels and Ottawa meetings on regional economic and refugee issues, is its absurd insistence that there are two Palestinian peoples, not one, for the purpose of talking with them. Obviously from its untenable point of view, Israel has physically removed the Palestinians in exile from the equation by driving them away from their homes and keeping them out in spite of all the international resolutions calling on Israel to allow and facilitate their repatriation. Israeli leaders must have figured that the only Palestinians that they may communicate with are those with whom they are "stuck" in the occupied territories. It is no surprise therefore that Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's government vehemently rejects U.N. General Assembly resolution 194 which accorded Palestinians that fled their homeland in Palestine the right to return or entitled them to fair compensation depending on their own free will. The exercise of this right, according to Shamir's estimation, would once again make the Palestinians one rather than two as Israel wishes them to be. Small wonder then, that both the Likud and Labour parties in Israel have worked so feverishly to create a separate Palestinian leadership in the West Bank and Gaza Strip as a way to reinforce the proposition that the Palestinians and their leadership outside the occupied territories are different from the Palestinians and their leadership inside.

Whether Shamir and his Labour counterpart Yitzhak Rabin, who also joined the Israeli chorus opposing resolution 194, accept that resolution is not the issue. U.N. resolutions continue to apply irrespective of what one or more parties affected by it think. To see it differently makes a mockery of the entire U.N. system and its decisions especially at a time when there is a growing international consensus that the international organisation needs to be strengthened rather than weakened. Israeli jurists also must comprehend that over and above the relevant U.N. resolutions on the subject of the right of return or compensation, there is always the customary international law on the subject especially the part embodied in various international human rights instruments that Israel has ratified. There is no way that Shamir and Rabin can get away with their illegal and immoral thesis that the Palestinians have no right to return to the homes that they had left behind. To contend otherwise would be such an outrageous breach of international law and U.N. resolutions that would irrevocably undermine international legitimacy.

Washington and its backers in the new international order are duty-bound therefore to stay on course and remain faithful to their commitments to U.N. resolutions which they had supported in the past. To do otherwise would also undermine their credibility and standing at a critical juncture in the development of the new world order.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AI RA'I Arabic daily commented on King Hussein's visit to the Netherlands, noting that it was one more link in a long series of efforts by the monarch to strengthen further the relations between Jordan and the European countries. The King's address to an international gathering in the Hague was aimed at presenting the bright image of Jordan to the outside world and winning friends that can help bring about peace to the Middle East region, noted the paper. There is no doubt that the overwhelming welcome and hospitality accorded to the King in the Hague was a reflection of the deep appreciation of Jordan's endeavours in the social, economic and political fields and a manifestation of the genuine friendship which binds Jordan with the European nations, the paper continued. The visit is bound to open new avenues for more trade and better understanding of Arab affairs and can bolster economic ties Jordan seeks to establish with the European Community, the paper added. The European leaders realise that the King is continuing relentless efforts worldwide to achieve peace based on justice in the Middle East said the paper, and there is great hope that the Europeans will extend a helping hand to Jordan and give further impetus to the peace process to help the Middle East enjoy stability and security, it added.

A COLUMNIST in AI Ra'i Arabic daily attacked oil-rich Arab countries which he said had closed their doors in the face of Arab workers and their borders with Arab states and opened them for the Americans and Western nations. Tareq Masarweh noted that the oil-rich states have this year concluded contracts to buy 21 billion worth of American weapons only to please the West because they have nobody to use these weapons against. The writer said that these oil-rich states will not fight Iraq because they have secured the alliance of the West to fight for them. They will not fight Iran because they have no interest or power to do that, nor will they fight Israel which is a friend of the American who are friends of the oil-rich states. According to the writer, these oil-rich states have been flooding the markets with cheap oil in order to help stimulate the weak American economy and to do harm to the other oil nations and third world countries in general. The writer said that the oil-rich states of the Arab World are doing a favour to the Americans and their allies in the West and Israel in particular by shutting off Arab workers and linking their economies with the West.

# King: Between people and government there exists a social contract grounded in consent and mutual trust

## There is a need throughout the region for legitimate constitutional regimes • The international community should address the problems of the Middle East in a balanced manner • Democracy and respect for human rights must be strengthened

Following is His Majesty King Hussein's address delivered at the world forum of businessmen and economists in the Hague.

Your Excellency,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

IT IS my pleasure and privilege to address this distinguished company of statesmen, stateswomen, thinkers, men and women of vast experience and universal vision. I take this honour to be one accorded not only to myself, but also to the people of Jordan, and to the greater Arab Nation to which I am proud to belong. It was from this nation that our Prophet Mohammad delivered the Almighty's message: "Man-kind! We created you from a single pair, of a male and a female, and made you into nations and tribes, that ye may know each other. Verily the most honoured of you to the sight of God is the most righteous of you."

Jordan is a member of that nation and its long history which has contributed significantly to all branches of knowledge and wisdom. Though today it is a part of a region suffering from turmoil and strife, Jordan has never lost the sense of belonging to the community of the world, has never looked inwards, or taken refuge in isolation. We are open to all the currents of modern thought, and welcome everything in modern civilisation and culture which is serious and sane.

For the past 39 years, I have shouldered the responsibilities of leadership in a country in whose modern history are reflected all the complexities of the modern world. My personal experiences have given me a vision of what is, and what might be, in the Middle East which I would like to share with you.

We live today in a world beset with contradictions. The trend towards greater unity and interdependence among states is counterbalanced by increasing fragmentation and inequality between peoples. The decline of the influence of ideologies is offset by the growth of nationalistic and ethnic sentiments. While the dangers of war between nations have diminished strife within nations has increased. The end of the cold war and of East-West confrontation and the emergence of one dominant power has eliminated the fear of nuclear confrontation, but the danger of the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction not only to governments but to dangerous elements not even constrained by the restraints and responsibilities of gov-

ernments has increased. In fact in the area of weapons proliferation the limiting factor to their acquisition appears to be in the financial domain, while governments requiring weapons for their legitimate national self-defence are often unable to do so. Economic growth in some parts of the world is accompanied by the descent into poverty and hunger in others, and the gap between the rich and the poor widens.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

WITHIN THIS complex framework of international relationships, the Middle East, of which the Arab World is a major element, constitutes its own microcosm of conflicts and contradictions. The political and social unity of our life within one state was shattered by the fragmentation imposed on us by two others. The alienation of important parts of our national territories to non-Arab states conflicted with the legitimate aspirations of the Arabs to complete sovereignty and unity. The emergence of regimes with differing outlooks and opposing external engagements prevented serious movement towards unification, impeded the establishment of democratic institutions and values, fostered the growth of autocracy, curtailed the exercise of human rights, and discouraged the creativity of the individual citizen.

In short, our region has suffered from the combination of the interventions and pressures of the outside world with the inner weaknesses and conflicts of its political and social structures. We have neither been able to enjoy the benefits of unification and genuine regional cooperation, nor to reach understanding and accommodation with the rest of the world.

The question we ask ourselves, therefore, is "where are we going?" And, "How will the dramatic changes now taking place in other areas affect us?" Will these changes encourage and promote the positive elements in our countries and societies, strengthen political and social freedom where it exists, help it to emerge where it does not, foster relations between our region and the outside world, based not on commercial greed, or material exploitation, but on conditions of genuine partnership and commitment to freedom and progress? Or will our region be

subjected to further alienations and fragmentation, its resources still further depleted, movements towards democracy and social emancipation stifled, and extremism in all its forms encouraged?

To answer these questions we must look first at the significance and scope of what is happening in the world today. There is a widespread feeling that we are on the threshold of a new era. The advent of a "new world order" has been officially announced in some capitals. The name seems to have been thought of first, and the substance left yet to be defined.

Of the fact that there are great changes taking place in many parts of the world there is no doubt. Bi-polarism no longer regulates the balancing mechanism of inter-state relations: The movement towards economic and political integration is gathering momentum in Western Europe, while Eastern Europe moves towards greater political and economic deregulation and fragmentation. In the former Soviet Union, nationalist and ethnic forces have been released with consequences which are not yet clear. The fragmentation of a great monolithic state and of smaller ones such as Yugoslavia is taking place at the same time as scientific and technological progress is rapidly abolishing the barriers and distances between all regions. It is now possible for satellite communications to reach any corner of the globe regardless of national or state boundaries. This new-found global unity is also creating a new global rivalry between languages and cultures to dominate the minds and hearts of men, women and children.

It would be comforting if we could believe that these changes are really leading to a "new world order" but to many of us in the Middle East it seems that these changes are changes in structure, not in ideas and values. The new world is still ordered by old ideas and old leaderships. The recent revival in the activities and initiatives of the United Nations does not seem yet to herald the vitally needed restructuring of the organisation and its Security Council, that would enhance its credibility and enable to assume a dynamic and balanced role and to apply identical standards of equity, justice, and even common-sense in dealing with all conflicts. It is true that the reasons for its former paralysis have been removed, but at the same time the dangers of unbalanced decisions and initiatives have been increased. It is

difficult to indicate a preference, form political parties, and freedom of speech and the press; a government responsible to the elected representatives of the people; an independent judiciary; and a "national charter" formulated by national consensus which defines the rights and the responsibilities of governors and governed. I am proud to say that this Jordanian initiative is unique in our region, and hopefully will provide an example and an incentive for other countries to follow.

We in Jordan, however, do not live in isolation from our fellow Arabs and neighbours. We cannot dissociate ourselves from events beyond our frontiers, nor ignore external currents of thought. We share in all the sorrows and frustrations of the Arab peoples; as we do in their hopes and longings. There is now in our region a general wish to regain the sense of a common identity, and to translate it into new political realities, and into a greater degree of integration of the human and natural resources of our peoples. In the first quarter of the twentieth century it was my great grandfather, Sharif Hussein Ben Ali, who, with other leaders inspired by the same ideals, launched the Great Arab Revolution. It was his son, later King Faisal the First of Iraq, who stood up at the Versailles conference in 1919 to demand the legitimate rights of the Arab people to unity and sovereignty; rights which were promised to his father, but never implemented.

I feel it my right, and my duty, to reassert before this distinguished forum, the rights of the Arabs to freedom and sovereignty over all their lands, and to the full utilisation of their natural resources for their own welfare and prosperity.

Today the Arab peoples of the Middle East are suffering from frustration and despair. The fragmentation imposed on their territories by the post-1918 settlements did not disappear once national governments replaced foreign rule. Where once they circulated freely between Cairo, Damascus, Baghdad, Beirut, Amman, Riyadh, and Sanaa, they now must obtain visas which in some instances are indiscriminately refused. The Arab League, which we had hoped would unite the Arab governments in common policies, has become the reflection of their division.

We must recognise our weaknesses and not blame them entirely on the outside world. But at the same time we feel that it is our right that the world, and especially the Western world, should understand our problems and sympathise with our aspirations. The relationship we wish to establish with your governments and peoples is one based on cooperation not coercion; on justice not domination; on equality not dependency.

The foundations of a genuinely new and better order in the Middle East, in my vision, must rise on a number of pillars:

(Continued on page 5)

## THE WEEK IN PRINT

### Commitment to Resolution 194 could help peace process

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

THE MULTILATERAL talks involving the Arabs, the Israelis and other countries, together with the restoration of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem and a host of domestic affairs were given prominence in the local press in the past week. The local daily Al-Dustour considered as positive and constructive an announcement by the United States that it was committed to U.N. Security Council Resolution 194 concerning the repatriation of the Palestinians or their compensation. The reiteration by Washington is positive and of importance at this juncture and as it is coming from the most influential party in the peace process, said the daily. The paper said the American statement could give impetus to the peace process at the bilateral and the multilateral levels.

According to Taher Al Udwan, a columnist in AI Ra'i daily, Washington's announcement of a commitment to the 194 resolution is one thing and its work to force Israel to comply with the resolution is something else. It should be noted, the writer said, that the United States has ordered the various parties at the Ottawa meeting on refugees to refrain from discussing the Palestinians' "right of return."

Sawt Al Shaab Arabic daily said that the U.S. administration has retreated from its position as declared in the letters of assurances given to the Arab parties to the peace talks. It is Washington's refraining from interfering in the peace talks that has encouraged the Israelis to hold on to their intransigent position and refuse to take part in the multilateral talks, said the paper.

The United States decision to support Israel by not allowing Palestinians from the diaspora to take part in the multilateral negotiations over the question of refugees should prompt the Arab parties, particularly the Palestinians to withdraw from the talks, said Tareq Masarweh in AI Ra'i daily. The writer said that the Arabs should also boycott the other working group meetings if they find that such meetings do not cater to the rights of all the Palestinians.

Commenting on a statement by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to a Jewish organisation meeting in the United States in which he said that Washington would prevent any talk about the Palestinians' right of return at the multilateral negotiations in Ottawa, Fakhri Saleh, a columnist in AI-Dustour, said that the U.S. admin-

istration was exploiting the conference to please the Jews and the Zionist lobby. The U.S. administration exploited the Gulf catastrophe to pressure the Arabs into attending the peace talks but it is now steering the course of the negotiations to serve its own purposes and ends, the writer noted. Mutasim Shugair, a columnist in AI-Dustour, said that since Syria, Lebanon and Israel are not taking part in the multilateral talks and since the Palestinians of the diaspora are being excluded from the meetings there is no need for such talks. The writer said that many other countries like Iran and Iraq which should have been involved in discussions concerning the Middle East region and its future have been left out and so there can be no real progress in such meetings in which the essential parties are not taking part.

Referring to the question of restoring the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem, AI Ra'i daily said that Jordan has a traditional and religious duty and responsibility towards caring for the holy places of Jerusalem.

King Hussein's order that the restoration should start immediately and his personal donation towards the project were only a manifestation of the Kingdom's continued commitment towards safeguarding the holy shrines the paper noted.

Sawt Al Shaab daily said that it seems that foreign organisations and countries are working behind the scene wishing to involve themselves into Islamic affairs in general and the holy places in Jerusalem in particular. The paper said that Islamic organisations have the right to contribute to the project and offer donations to the special committee charged with handling the task, but it said, that any contributions should pass through Jordan, which has been in charge of the committee and its work over the past five decades.

Mahmoud Al Rimawi, a columnist who writes for AI Ra'i, said that the King's move to restore the Dome of the Rock came in reply to Israel's continued settlement programmes as well as a display of Jordan's continued commitment towards the holy places. The writer said that the Israelis had been desecrating the holy shrines belonging to the Christians at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre and the Dome of the Rock, which it burnt in 1969, and it is the duty of Muslims and Christians to take steps and protect the holy

shrines. A columnist in AI Ra'i daily said that the time was still late for reconciling the two parties. The recent threats levelled against Syria and Lebanon, the pitiable situation in the Arab World and the catastrophe facing the Iraqis in view of the blockade call for such reconciliation to take part as soon as possible, said the writer.

Both Sawt Al Shaab and AI-Dustour dailies supported the Sudanese leader's efforts to bring about reconciliation between Iraq and Syria, noting that the time is ripe for such endeavours in view of the immense challenges facing the Arabs.

A columnist in AI Ra'i daily tackled the question of congested school buses, noting that the drivers have a serious responsibility in this respect as well as the school administrators. Lassa Masmahigh said that many school administrations are allowing students to be crowded onto their buses and not employing skilful or responsible drivers to handle the job. The drivers of school buses are not like those who drive trucks or taxi cabs, but rather are persons who should be carefully chosen for this serious task, demanded the writer.

Another columnist in AI Ra'i noted that schools in Jordan are still witnessing teachers restoring to beating or punishing students the way and to carry out their duty. Badr Abdul Haq said that he knows of a case involving a student who hates school and tries to avoid attendance because one of the teachers resorts to beating him for any reason. The writer said that other teachers have been reported harshly treating students who come late to school or fail to attend classes. He noted that beating of the students is continuing, and against all rules and regulations.

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## There exists in Jordan a contract based on consent and trust

(Continued from page 4)

policies which create new problems or aggravate old ones; it should base its decisions on the same principles it supports in other regions, it should not bend international law to serve some interests at the expense of others.

**THIRD:** The right of the peoples of the region to utilize their resources for their own economic, and social development should be respected, and regional cooperation and integration encouraged.

**FOURTH:** Democracy and respect for human rights in the

region must be strengthened. It is said when we see some quarters in the Western world indifferent to these issues when they believe their interests are at stake. Silence in the face of injustice or oppression is a form of complicity.

**FIFTH:** The opportunities for education and access to culture should be available to all. The diffusion of information is an inseparable element of self-determination and self-realisation, and the exercise of freedom. And the acquisition of scientific and tech-

nological know-how is both a right and a condition of social progress which must be protected.

**SIX:** Efforts to free the entire area from weapons of mass destruction of all kinds should be strongly supported, and security arrangements to meet the real needs of the region should be created. Such security arrangements will reduce existing regional tensions, build international confidence, and reflect favourably on efforts to solve regional

problems; among these the Arab-Israeli conflict is the most important. It is the root-cause of regional instability. Once Palestinian national rights are restored on Palestinian soil; once a comprehensive Arab-Israeli peace based on justice is established; once Jerusalem the Holy City becomes the symbol and essence of peace between the followers of the three great monotheistic religions in our world; then such security arrangements will also save the governments of the area from wasteful and unnecessary

expenditures on arms which serve no purpose useful to their peoples, which divert funds from development, and which endanger the collective stability of the area, and of the world.

**SEVEN:** The problems of security, development, and human rights form one indivisible whole, an integrated vision of how they may all be collectively faced should replace efforts to separate them, or to favour one at the expense of others.

**EIGHT:** The establishment of a healthy stable Middle East order requires the establishment of a similar order in its major component, the Arab World. Our region cannot achieve stability and progress while divisions among most of its states are rife, and while their peoples suffer frustra-

tion, despair and anger. The causes of these feelings, whether due to repression from within or domination from without, should be addressed, and redressed.

To sum up my vision of what the Middle East should and could be: It would be a region where the insecure would feel secure; the victim of injustice would find redress and compensation; the hungry would be fed; the ignorant would be educated; the Arab people would again play a role in the march of history; their causes would receive just recognition and support from the rest of the world; they would be helped to put behind them bitter memories from the past, and to look to a happy future.

In the nearly forty years in which I have had the responsibility of leading the people of Jor-

dan I have tried to make of our small country a microcosm of what I would wish for all the Arab countries. It is not the size of a country which is important, but the greatness of its thoughts. In Jordan we do not condone extremism or encourage fanaticism. We do not believe in war as an instrument of policy. Our belief in liberty is an echo from the past of the words of the Caliph Omar Ben Al Khattab: "How dare you enslave people who are born free." In the division between those who struggle for freedom, independence and democracy, and those who support oppression, domination, and autocracy, we have found ourselves since the outset. Our vision of the world is not based on the balance of power, nuclear

deterrents, the exploitation of the weak by the strong or the poor by the rich; it is a vision of the association of free peoples mutually respecting each others' interests, and cooperating for the good of all.

It is my hope, and I am sure I will not be disappointed, that my thoughts will find a response among peoples and among statesmen and thinkers such as yourselves who share the same ideals. We in Jordan consider ourselves a link in a chain of history which extends far back into the past, and looks far forward into the future. It is of our children, and their children, and your children, and the children of the whole world, that we must think, and work to build for them a better world than the one we live in today.

### Economic course is 'excellent'

(Continued from page 1)

1993. The total rescheduled Jordanian debts amount to \$1.4 billion, he said.

The rescheduling was over a period of 15 to 20 years, he said, noting that in view of the growth of the Jordanian economy the actual effect of the payment, when made, would be around one third of the impact that it would have if the payments were made now.

Jordan has paid 50 per cent of the interest due on the debt due between mid-1991 and mid-1993 and the other 50 per cent was rescheduled. There was no "write-off" of any interest, he stressed.

Jordan hopes to secure a rescheduling agreement with its commercial creditors grouped in the London Club, including debt conversions into investments and bonds as well as debt buy-backs and debt forgiveness.

In separate comments he made to the Jordan Times Friday, Dr. Nabulsi said Jordan had rejected a draft agreement which it received from the London Club following talks in early March. "We found the agreement unacceptable," he said. "We are now awaiting a new draft accord from them."

Although Dr. Nabulsi did not elaborate on what was found unacceptable, his comments to the editors on Thursday indicated that the draft accord fell short of some of Jordan's expectations and objectives.

"We are trying to reschedule the London Club debt in the next few months on a new basis that entails debt-relief and the possibility of buying back and converting part of the debts into government bonds and investments in the local economy."

Dr. Nabulsi remains hopeful that in addition to getting debt relief it would be successful in rescheduling all its foreign obligations by 1995-1996 in addition to paying all interest due on them," he said.

Dr. Nabulsi disclosed that Jordan had already "bought back" part of its commercial debts at one third face value. He did not provide figures, but the total commercial debt of the Kingdom stood at about \$1.4 billion at the end of 1991.

"There is no plan or need to devalue the Jordanian dinar. The present exchange rate of the dinar is realistic, stable and compatible with the national economic growth."

An IMF delegation which visited Jordan recently testified to the stability of the dinar, he said. The CBJ governor noted that the dinar has maintained its stability for the past 30 months and this in itself is commended by international circles.

He also pointed out that the foreign exchange reserves of Jordan had grown beyond the level of three years ago, when "they were \$300 million in the red and when the assets of the banking system were not more than \$1 billion." He compared these figures with the present foreign exchange reserves of about \$910 million, excluding gold and 35 per cent mandatory deposits of commercial banks at the CBJ—and the net assets of the banking system valued at more than \$4.2 billion.

The CBJ will soon issue new bank notes as a routine measure

against counterfeiting. No new denominations are planned.

Dr. Nabulsi said several government institutions—he named the Water Authority as an example—were not carrying out cost-effective operations and were suffering losses as a result implying that he favoured privatisation of at least some of them.

In view of the economic problems facing the country as a whole, "pockets of poverty" have turned to "sacks of poverty," he said. However, he added, the IMF programme could not be blamed for the situation since it had very little to do with poverty in Jordan.

"The IMF programme is aimed solely at achieving economic and financial stability," he stressed. "In general IMF programmes have nothing to do with increasing and decreasing poverty or wealth. It depends on the concerned government's way of implementing the programme."

Dr. Nabulsi conceded that credit expansion was an area where debate was legitimate, especially when taking into consideration that commercial bank credits in the first three months of 1992 appear to be exceeding a ceiling set under the IMF programme and therefore the CBJ had to adopt a "credit rationalisation" policy.

Credits extended by commercial banks in the first quarter of 1992 exceeded JD 167 million, whereas the IMF-inspired ceiling was JD 200 million for the private sector and \$95 million for the public sector for the entire year, he noted. About JD 10 million were granted in April.

If this trend is to continue for the rest of the year, then Jordan would not be able to remain within the limitations set by the IMF and therefore unable to secure an IMF green light which is an inevitable part of any debt rescheduling negotiations with foreign creditors.

The key area affected by the new policy, the CBJ governor explained, is "speculative activities such as stock market trading and investments in real estate."

However, he ruled out a blanket ban on credit for such activities saying that the CBJ was only seeking "a controlled situation."

"Our bottom line is clear," he said. "The CBJ's mission is to defend the stability of the Jordanian dinar and combat inflation. The CBJ is not legally concerned with the developments in the stock market."

Dr. Nabulsi, who took the helm of the CBJ in early 1989 when Jordan was in the throes of a deep economic crisis, also commented on the general banking situation in Jordan. He said the collapse of Petra Bank, which had to be taken over in 1989 by the government and supported by government funds as a result, was severe blow to the economy. Petra Bank was ordered liquidated in April 1990, but not before the government pumped in more than \$250 million to meet the bank's commitments to local depositors. The government also had to address the problems of the bank's employees, which posed an additional burden.

The CBJ governor struck another positive note saying the new legislation which allows non-banking money-changers to operate in the country after a three-year absence was highly positive.

### Right of return haunts meeting

(Continued from page 1)

install for direct contact with Syria in order to avert war by miscalculation, and an exchange of data on current arsenals and future weapons purchase plans.

The prospect for success was not immediately clear. Syria, for instance, boycotted the State Department talks attended by 21 nations including the two sponsors, the United States and Russia.

But Egypt and Israel reportedly showed strong interest in following the path that was taken by the United States and the Soviet Union in adopting measures to reduce nuclear tension during the cold war.

The American hosts, setting a slow tempo, conducted the meetings in seminar form. For instance, they traced the steps the

United States and the Soviet Union took to establish mutual trust during the cold war, including a 24-hour-a-day computer link between Washington and Moscow.

Two senior U.S. officials said at the end that while there were no agreements, there were no polemics either and Arabs and Israelis agreed to set a date for the next, more practical round at the end of the month in Lisbon, Portugal. It will be held "sooner rather than later," said one of the two officials.

"There wasn't a place on the agenda to make proposals," the official said of the discussion. "This was a seminar. We were not tabling proposals."

The talks were chaired by Dennis Ross, head of the State Department's policy planning staff, and Richard A. Clarke, assistant secretary for politico-military affairs.

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## America 3 takes commanding 3-1 lead over Italians

SAN DIEGO (R) — America3 drove across the finish line one minute, four seconds ahead of Italy's Il Moro Di Venezia to take a commanding 3-1 lead in the best-of-seven America's Cup finals.

"Don't look back, buddy," syndicate chief Bill Koch shouted to his number one helmsman, Buddy Melges, in the home stretch, and the Americans never did, increasing their lead on the downwind final leg to the highest of the race.

America3 needs only one more victory to successfully defend the cup for the San Diego Yacht Club while the Italians need three in a row to take it away, putting them right where they were — with their backs against the wall — in their challenger finals with New Zealand.

The Americans had a near disaster at the sixth mark when grinder Peter Fennelly almost had his leg taken off by a rope, a jib sheet, that twisted around him as it was being wound in. Bowman Jerry Kirby jumped over the side into the slack sail trailing in the water, freed Fennelly and saved the race.

At the fifth mark, the

America3 mast nearly broke when the gennaker, or headsail, filled early, before the crew could tighten the guy rope controlling the top of the mast.

Only on one leg did the Italians, led by American professional skipper Paul Cayard, cut into America3's lead. That was on the upwind third leg, when the winds fell from a high of 12 knots to eight, favouring Il Moro during a tacking duel to trim 20 seconds from the lead.

But on the short crosswind legs that followed, America3 added three, two and two more seconds for a net of seven, added two more on the upwind seventh, then rode down the wind to widen their margin by 28 seconds, finishing in two hours 30 minutes 47 seconds.

The final margin was not quite as dramatic as Tuesday's one minute 58 second difference but it was as convincing, since it did not see the major mistakes Cayard admitted to in race three — misjudging the weather and so choosing the wrong side, and failing to engage America3 right away.

America3 start specialist David

Dellenbaugh got the left side he wanted after fooling Cayard into thinking he wanted the right, and Il Moro crossed the start line one second ahead — its only lead of the race.

But Dellenbaugh had the side he wanted, and with Melges now at the wheel, the Americans got a shift in a strengthening wind to go out in front immediately, building a 24-second lead by the first mark.

America3 seemed to glide through the lumpy seas more smoothly than Il Moro, and tactician Dellenbaugh said that for the first time the boat gave clear evidence it was faster into the wind as well as downwind.

Koch said the key to victory was a faster boat and Dellenbaugh's reading of the breeze. "Boat speed — and David did a wonderful job of picking the right wind shifts," said Koch, who attributed America3's 20-second lapse on the third leg to having the wrong sail.

The tall Kansas technocrat said he had been unaware of either of his team's brushes with disaster. "We were all involved in our own activities. It was a great deal by Jerry Kirby who got Peter out

of the drink. I only found out about it as we crossed the finish line."

Fennelly said: "I didn't fall overboard, my foot got caught around the jib sheet. But Jerry Kirby over here saved my life, and saved the whole race."

Said Kirby: "He went in the water, so I pulled out my knife and dove after Pete."

He saw that Fennelly's leg was caught and about to be broken as the grinders wound in the jib sheet.

"So I went to dive, a little body drag in the water," Kirby said. "We were screaming, Mike (Toppa, a sail trimmer), ease the sheet out, and we got it off Peter's leg and got him back on the boat."

He said the incident actually eased the tension on the boat. "When you have stuff like that you forget about the America's Cup and just do your job."

That leaves plenty of pressure on the Italians. Only once has a boat come back from a 3-1 deficit in an America's Cup final. Australia II did it in 1983, beating Liberty in their last three races to take the cup for its only trip off U.S. shores.

## Al Dustour Basketball championship roundup

By Aileen Rannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan's Al Orthodoxy Friday added another win to their record as they beat Al Markazi of Lebanon 88-67 in the 16th match of the Al Dustour basketball championship.

Al Orthodoxy won the first half 47-36. They expanded the gap to 61-49 in the seventh minute of the second half, but Al Markazi caught up at 63-60 two minutes later.

Scoring was close from then on as Al Markazi were trailing 68-64, before Al Orthodoxy's Murad Barakat scored 11 consecutive points while his teammates secured offensive and defensive rebounding to expand their lead to 78-65 with less than four minutes remaining.

Al Markazi's Abdo Shedyaq and Michel Haddad tried to score but failed, while Al Orthodoxy secured their win with two final-minute three pointers from

Jihad Saliba and Murad Barakat to end the match at 88-67.

In Thursday's matches Jordan's Al Ahli and Iraq's Al Shurta suffered their first defeats while Lebanon's Al Riyadi scored their first win.

Al Ahli lost 88-72 to Al Karkh while Al Orthodoxy beat Al Shurta 103-91. Al Riyadi beat the Sudanese team 109-85.

Excluding Friday's matches Al Karkh, Al Ahli, Al Orthodoxy and Al Shurta are tied with 7 points each in the overall standings. Their remaining matches will be vital to determine who will win the title.

Late Friday evening Al Shurta clashed against Al Ahli while Al Riyadi played Al Karkh.

All teams will get a break from competition today. On Sunday, the last day of competition, Al Kharroum plays Al Shurta, Al Karkh plays Al Markazi and Al Ahli clashes against Al Orthodoxy at the Sports Palace court.

## SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

### Mansell takes pole spot at San Marino

IMOLA, Italy (AP) — Nigel Mansell and Williams-Renault continued their domination of the Formula One circuit Friday, breaking the track record and beating Ayrton Senna by more than a second to earn the provisional pole for the San Marino Grand Prix. Mansell, who will be trying for record a fifth straight victory at the start of a season in Sunday's race, completed his best lap on the 5.04-kilometre Dino and Enzo Ferrari Autodrome in one minute, 21.842 seconds, .37 faster than the course record set by Senna last year. Riccardo Patrese, Mansell's Italian teammate, had the fifth best time, ahead of the Ferraris of Frenchman Jean Alesi and Italian Ivan Capelli. Another qualifying session to determine the 26-car starting field was scheduled for Saturday.

### Bulgaria beats Finland 3-0

HELSINKI (AP) — Emil Kostadinov scored twice in the final 20 minutes after Krassimir Balakov opened the scoring in the 61st minute, leading Bulgaria to a 3-0 victory over Finland in the opening European Group 6 qualifier for the 1994 World Cup. Balakov settled a mis-hit shot that swerved across the penalty area, fended off a tackle at the corner of the box and shot into the upper far corner of the net. The goal halted the momentum Finland had been building in the second half and was followed by Kostadinov's tallies in the 70th and 85th minutes.

### French club president indicted

BASTIA, Corsica (R) — The chief of Corsica's Bastia Football Club was indicted for manslaughter and detained over last week's collapse of a soccer stadium stand which killed 13 people and injured 700, justice officials said. The legal action against Club President Jean-Francois Filippi brought to seven the number of people indicted over the May 5 collapse of the temporary stand at Bastia's Furiani Stadium minutes before a French Cup semifinal match. Filippi was taken to hospital earlier Wednesday after collapsing at police headquarters during questioning but was later moved to a Bastia jail.

### Courier pulling in the crowds

ROME (AP) — Jim Courier wishes he could pass for just another American tourist in Rome. That won't be easy — not the way he's playing in the Italian Open. Courier, the world's top-ranked player, has been pulling in the crowds this week at the Foro Italico as he sweeps through the field. And he has reached the quarterfinals without dropping a set, including a 6-3, 6-2 victory over Spain's Sergi Bruguera Thursday. Courier was joined by Pete Sampras and Michael Chang in the quarters, the best U.S. showing on these clay courts since 1983.

### Tottenham manager reportedly sacked

LONDON (AP) — Peter Shreeves, manager of English first division club Tottenham, has been sacked after one year, the Independent newspaper reported Friday. There was no immediate confirmation of the report. Shreeves is in Wales helping prepare the national team for next week's World Cup qualifier against Romania.

## Olympic flame will be lit by Spanish archer

BARCELONA (Agencies) — A burning arrow shot by a Spanish archer will ignite the Olympic flame at this summer's Barcelona Games — assuming, of course, that it hits the target.

The archer, who has not yet been chosen, will launch the fiery arrow from a stage 35 metres away toward a cauldron atop the stadium. The arrow will be lit by the Olympic torch.

If the archer's aim is good, his arrow will ignite a gas burner feeding the flame during the July 25-Aug. 9 games. Organisers have not announced what would happen if the archer's aim is bad.

The flame usually is lit by a famous athlete, such as 1960 decathlon champion Rafer Johnson at the 1984 Los Angeles Games, who ignites the massive fire directly with the Olympic torch.

But an Olympic organiser said Thursday the honour at this summer's opening ceremonies will go to one of four Spanish archers still trying out for the job.

"We want to establish a series of firsts in these Olympics," said Armand Calvo, deputy director general of operations for the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee (COOB). "I guess others will copy us in the future."

The lighting of the flame will occur halfway through the opening ceremonies on the night of July 25. It will be the culmination of a seven-week journey for the Olympic torch, which will be ignited by the sun June 5 in Olympia, Greece.

The torch will be taken by sea to the Spanish coastal village of Empuries, about 120 kilometres north of Barcelona, on June 13. Then it will begin a trip around Spain, arriving in Barcelona on July 24.

Organisers have not revealed who will run the final leg of the relay, bringing the torch into the stadium to light the arrow.

It will not be necessary for the archer to put his arrow into the cauldron. There will be enough gas in an area 2 metres above the cauldron for ignition. Since the cauldron is 3 metres wide, that gives the archer a target of 6 square metres.

One of the four finalists is disabled archer Antonio Rebollo,

a bronze medalist in archery at the 1988 Seoul Paralympics. The 36-year-old Madrid cabinetmaker, whose legs are crippled by childhood polio, told the Barcelona newspaper El Periodico there is no reason to worry about the arrow missing its mark.

"It's a surefire shot," he said. Just in case, El Periodico reported, police will cord off an area outside the stadium around the cauldron.

Anita Defrantz, a former U.S. Olympic rower and now a member of the International Olympic Committee, said the important thing is that the ceremony provides a memorable moment for the athletes.

"It doesn't matter how it's done, as long as it's a moment that stands out," said Defrantz, in Barcelona to tour Olympic facilities. "It's how you remember the moment that matters the most — and if the archer misses they'll really remember that."

Meanwhile a Greek government official proposed Wednesday that the Olympic Games should be permanently staged in ancient Olympia, where they first began in 776 BC.

"The Olympics had their difficulties but survived. However, well-founded fears are still expressed for their future and Greece has proposed Olympia as a permanent site for the Olympic Games," Sports Under-Secretary Vassilis Papageorgopoulos told the seventh conference of European Sport Ministers in Rhodes, Greece.

He said that if the games returned to their birthplace their future would be secured.

The proposal was first made by Greek President Constantine Karamanlis in 1979 but such a decision can be taken only by the International Olympic Committee.

Thirty-two European countries, including the recently recognised states of Latvia, Estonia and Lithuania, were attending the three-day conference.

The European Sports Charter provides a legal framework for the development of European sport while the code of ethics is directed primarily at children and raises the issue of fair play.

## Lemond takes overall lead in Du Pont race

WINTERGREEN, Virginia (R) — American Greg Lemond, bidding for his first stage race victory in his native country in seven years, finished 11th in the most difficult event of the Tour Du Pont cycle race but regained a slim overall race lead ahead of teammate Aile Kvalsvoll.

Lemond, the three-time Tour De France winner, finished 43 seconds behind Herbert Niederberger of Switzerland who surged in the final uphill kilometre on the way to claiming the 159.2-kilometre home-titled to Wintergreen Resort eighth stage in 4 hours, 22 minutes and 14 seconds.

Kvalsvoll of Norway, who won the same stage last year to gain the race lead, finished second and trails Lemond by 0.13 seconds with three stages of the 1,620-kilometre race remaining.

Phil Anderson of Australia, the only double stage winner of the race, finished third in the same time as Kvalsvoll.

Lemond, who trailed New Zealand's Stephan Swart by eight seconds entering the stage, followed teammate Thierry Claveyrolat of France as the lead cyclist negotiated the final 5.8 kilometres steep ascent to the ski resort finish.

Swart, who held the lead for two days after overtaking teammate Dave Mann of Britain following the sixth stage, faltered and finished 22 seconds behind Lemond in 18th place. Swart is now third overall, 14 seconds behind Anderson is fourth, trail-

ing Lemond by 20 seconds.

Lemond, who won the prologue and also led the race after the first stage, has finished in the top 10 in six of the event's nine races.

Despite his three Tour De France and two World Championship Road Race triumphs, Lemond has not won a stage race in the United States since 1985 when he defeated former teammate Bernard Hinault of France in the Coors International Bicycle Classic.

"It was teamwork," said Lemond, who climbed much of the last four-mile, 14 per cent grade paced by Claveyrolat. "I feel good, a lot better than I thought I would. I think the race will be won in the time trial."

Following two flat stages Friday and Saturday, the most prestigious stage race in the United States ends Sunday with a 22.2 kilometre individual time trial.

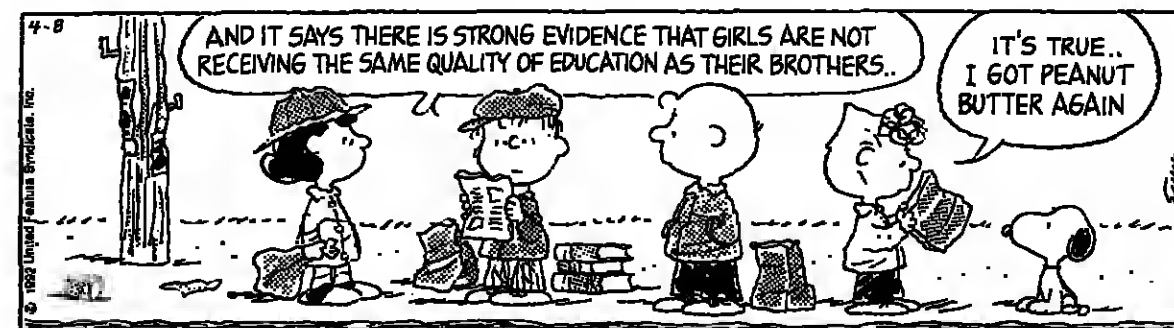
"If it comes down to the time trial, the best man will win," said the 27-year-old Swart. "I wouldn't count myself out of it or I would go home now."

Guido Winterberg of Switzerland is in fifth position, 33 seconds behind, followed by compatriot Beat Zberg, 41 seconds behind and Colombian Ruben Martin, 56 seconds behind.

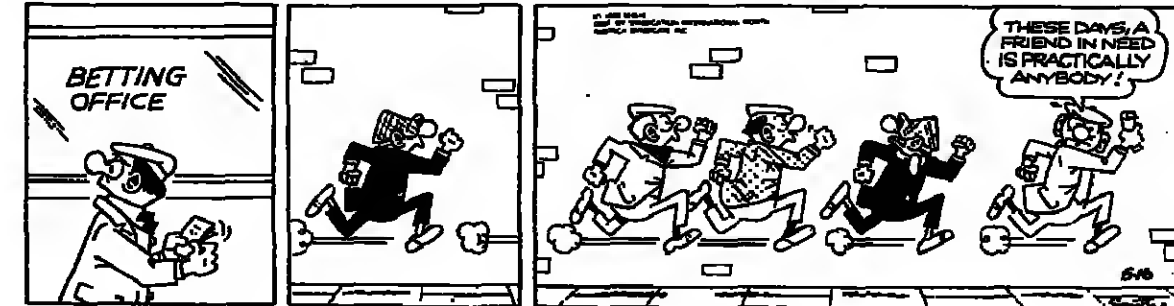
Laurent Fignon of France, the two-time Tour De France winner, is ninth overall, trailing Lemond by 59 seconds. Reigning world road titlist Gianni Bugno of Italy is 16th overall, 2:14 behind the leader.

## Jordan Times Tel: 667171

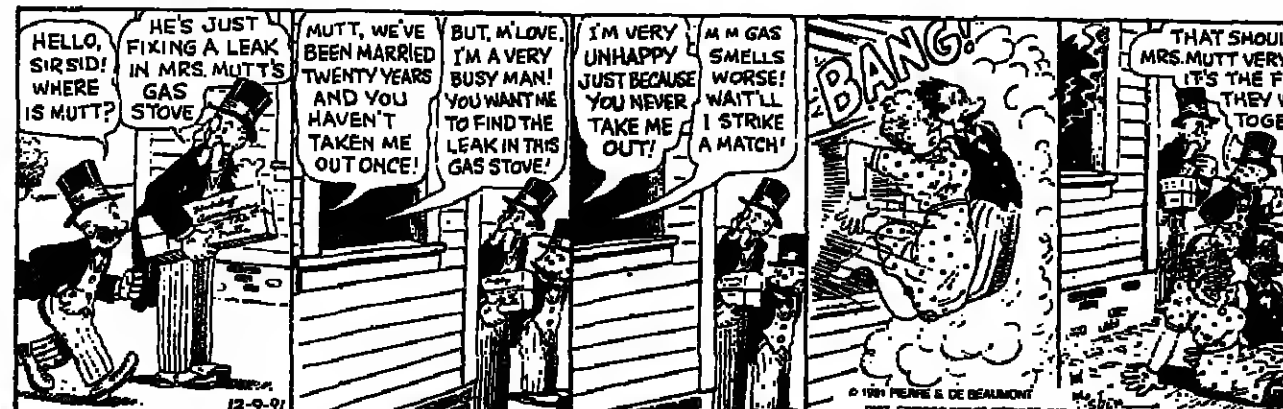
## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n'Jeff



## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 16, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Flighter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES.** The Full Moon in Scorpio early this evening brings unexpected surprises and involvement. Personalities from the past may show up out of blue and take a lot of your time that was already assigned a different schedule.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Make sure you do nothing during the day to upset your own household but then in the evening you can cooperate with them in very constructive activities.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You need to use the exact words and phrasing in whatever communications you engage in today but tonight you see ways to put your ideas across.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Consider well whatever you do of a financial nature during the daytime and you spare yourself some trouble but tonight ideas are fine.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) You are apt to be touchy and to take whatever is said or done too personally during the day but tonight you can enjoy the hobby you most like.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) You feel you are being put upon by one who has not the right to do so but by evening conditions improve and your own harmony is again restored.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Your personal goals seem to have all sorts of complications con-

nected with them and not until evening do you see how to really make them yours.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) Don't take to heart some comment in the world made by an influential person and in the evening you see how you can advance your standing easily.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You found some important new arrangement you had in mind has too many angles for you to contend with but tonight you see just how to handle them.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Obligations look like a mountain to be scaled early in the day but this soon passes and you are able to organize them so they are quickly done.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Keep objective and kind today when with an individual who gets pretty emotionally disturbed and tonight all works out to mutual satisfaction.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Think about the various tasks to be done and don't get the idea that they are more than you can handle and in the evening you organize them very well.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Changes in plans for some recreation are in the wind during the daytime so go along with them and tonight entertainments work out for much delight for you.

## THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"I didn't have a tip for the pizza boy, so I gave him a coupon for 50 cents off on toothpaste."

## JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

GLUBY

NAMEG

LANDAV

REYAL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: APART LIBEL SLOGAN DEVICE

Answer: What profession do many babies engage in from the moment they're born? "ADVERTISING"

## THE Daily Crossword by Richard Thomas

ACROSS

1 "The 39" — (be wise)

6 Mill course

10 Bead

14 — Gables, Fla.

15 New view

16 NY college

17 Combine

18 Schools of

19 Short trip

20 Alaska

23 Range

24 Organised

25 Manhandle

26 Lower to its

30 Cruises

31 Luncheonette

33 Red leader

37 Alaska

41 Indian state

42 — clasp, (prescription note)

43 Sell donation

46 Skippy

49 Malice

51 Run-in

52 Alaska

55 Fathe or Mathe of baseball

59 Grim

60 Radio knob

62 Lay ending

63 Record

64 Outskirts

65 Pile

66 Close parts

DOWN

1 Dross of molten metal

2 Versile of song

3 Skater Holden

4 Poignancy

5 Parka part

6 Mixture

7 Perfume

8 Spreads hay to dry

9 Informal

10 Come apart in a way

11 Know the — (be wise)

12 Cleared

13 Breathes laboriously

21 Social frolic

22 Wash or wave

25 Can. prov.

26 Humbug lead-ins

27 Employers

28 Caine film

29 Gossip

32 Draw on metal

34 Fruit

36 Not bogus

38 Legions

38 Freedom to act

39 Friendship

40 Pizzazz

45 Sensitive to touch

47 Spring holiday

48 Bring into agreement

49 Firm

50 Andar tip

51 — throat

52 Paying

55 Feed the kitty

56 — off (angry)

57 Miscellaneous



# Economy

**Financial Markets**  
In co-operation with  
Cairo Amman Bank

Currency	New York Close	Tel Aviv Close
U.S. Dollar	1.8264	1.8215
Deutsche Mark	1.6093	1.6108
Swiss Franc	1.4810	1.4786
French Franc	5.4025	5.4150
Japanese Yen	129.60	129.87
European Currency Unit	1.7785	1.7750

Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	6 MTN	12 MTN
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.75	3.88	4.37
Deutsche Mark	10.06	9.81	9.81	9.75
Swiss Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.68
French Franc	9.06	8.87	8.68	8.30
Japanese Yen	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.68
European Currency Unit	4.72	4.67	4.59	4.62

Currency	1 MTN	3 MTN	6 MTN	12 MTN
U.S. Dollar	3.81	3.75	3.88	4.37
Deutsche Mark	10.06	9.81	9.81	9.75
Swiss Franc	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.68
French Franc	9.06	8.87	8.68	8.30
Japanese Yen	9.75	9.75	9.75	9.68
European Currency Unit	4.72	4.67	4.59	4.62

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6780	0.6800
Deutsche Mark	0.4127	0.4228
Swiss Franc	0.4587	0.4607
French Franc	0.1256	0.1262
Japanese Yen	0.0227	0.0233
Dutch Guilder	0.3748	0.3767
Swedish Krona	0.1171	0.1177
Italian Lira	0.0561	0.0563
Belgian Franc	0.02030	0.02040

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Deutsche Mark	0.4127	0.4228
Swiss Franc	0.4587	0.4607
French Franc	0.1256	0.1262
Japanese Yen	0.0227	0.0233
Dutch Guilder	0.3748	0.3767
Swedish Krona	0.1171	0.1177
Italian Lira	0.0561	0.0563
Belgian Franc	0.02030	0.02040

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## World's largest property firm files for bankruptcy protection

TORONTO (R) — Olympia York (O.Y.) Developments Ltd., whose buildings shaped skylines on two continents, has filed for bankruptcy protection for its Canadian companies to give it time to put its massive debts in order.

The action on Thursday night was a stunning setback for the three Reichmann brothers, who built the company into the world's largest real estate developer and won a reputation for the midas touch.

The filing also set off turmoil in financial markets. A Toronto court granted O.Y. protection for its 28 affiliated Canadian firms, but the ruling did not affect its vast holdings in the United States and Britain.

O.Y. has debts of more than \$18.5 billion and has been trying to restructure \$12 billion in debts for the last three months. Its Canadian properties were most vulnerable to takeover by lending banks.

The proceedings initiated to today represent an appropriate step in Olympia York's restructuring which will ensure the long-term viability of the company, O.Y. President Gerald Greenwald said in the statement.

The restructuring process involves almost 100 banks worldwide. The action by O.Y., whose buildings have shaped the skylines of Toronto, New York and London and which is the developer of the massive Canary Wharf project in London's docklands,

rocked financial markets. The first effects were felt in Tokyo, where the stock market fell sharply on Friday and Japanese banks — although not major lenders to Olympia York — declined in a big self-off.

Economists feared the action could also depress the Canadian stock market as it cut two cents off the value of the Canadian dollar and sent interest rates higher.

O.Y. and four of its Canadian companies also filed petitions on Thursday night for protection from creditors under chapter 11 of the U.S. bankruptcy code.

The U.S. filing was necessary because these companies have substantial U.S. assets. But the filing does not affect the properties owned by U.S. subsidiaries.

The actions in Canadian and U.S. courts were a stunning blow to the secretive Reichmann brothers, who built O.Y. from nothing over 40 years.

Banks hurried to lend ever more billions of dollars to the Reichmanns and their empire grew to the point where they now own 12 buildings in New York, nine in Toronto and others in Boston, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

But in the last two years, the real estate market plummeted, sending vacancy rates soaring and income dwindling.

"In commercial real estate the Donald Trumps were the first to go. The bigger and more respected developers like Olympia York went last," said economist

David Jones at Aubrey G. Langston Co. Inc. in New York. "But in a way this is healthy," he added. "It puts a final lid on the excesses of the 1980s and starts to put the worst of the problems of that decade behind us."

The bankruptcy filings were triggered by O.Y.'s failure on Thursday to make a \$17 million Canadian dollar (\$14 million) payment on First Canadian Place, an office tower in downtown Toronto. The failure gave bondholders the right to seize the building.

First Canadian, a 72-storey white marble building that has an underground shopping complex, is considered one of O.Y.'s best properties.

But the company's cash problems began looking serious on Feb. 13, when Toronto-based Dominion Bond Rating Agency downgraded a number of O.Y. debt issues.

The downgrade spread nervousness in the commercial paper market, making it difficult for O.Y. to refinance short-term debt instruments.

On March 22, O.Y. admitted it faced a "liquidity crisis."

O.Y. was forced to withdraw a planned trust in Britain intended to raise \$215 million (\$370 million) from the market for the Canary Wharf project.

The company later failed to make payments on about 240 million Canadian dollars (\$200 million) of commercial paper secured by the exchange tower in central Toronto.

On May 1, O.Y. missed payment on the \$155 million first mortgage secured on the 45-storey Aetna Centre in Toronto.

Earlier Thursday, O.Y. lost a London high court case to Morgan Stanley Inc. over the timing of a payment of \$240 million.

O.Y. is to appear in court next Wednesday when the judge will decide how the judgment will be implemented. O.Y. is expected to appeal the decision.

However, Mr. Amad said the medium-term trend in the market depended to a large extent on the outcome of a meeting between commercial bankers and Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) officials scheduled to be held Thursday.

"Investors are awaiting what transpires during the meeting, whether interest rates of deposits at commercial banks will go up or down and how far the credit squeeze in the market is going to affect trading at the AFM," he told the Jordan Times.

In line with a credit ceiling inspired by the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the CBJ has initiated a "credit rationalisation" by commercial banks and this in turn had its impact on the AFM, where many rushed to ensure their liquidity in anticipation of banks calling in their credits.

According to economic analysts, the CBJ move had sent wrong signals and was misinterpreted by investors and speculators and hence what was widely described in the local media as panic at the AFM.

CBJ Governor Mohammad Saeed Nabulsi explained Friday that the "credit rationalisation" did not mean a total cut-off of credit for AFM dealings and that the CBJ was not interfering in the stock market.

The credit rationalisation policy, Dr. Nabulsi agreed, "is precisely aimed at controlling use of commercial bank credits for speculative purposes or real estate investments."

But it does not mean a blanket ban against commercial bank credits but only a trimming of the volume of credit extended for AFM trading and real estate investment, he said.

"Our bottom line is that our mission is to defend the value of the dinar and combat inflation," Dr. Nabulsi told the Jordan Times in a telephone interview.

The CBJ move was only partly responsible for the slump at AFM, Mr. Amad explained. Most companies distributed dividends during April and this, as is natural, had depressed prices and business, he noted.

Mr. Amad agreed with the opinion of economists that prices at the AFM had gone up "a little bit too high" during the first four months of the year since the market enjoyed an abundance of liquidity brought in by Gulf re-investments, "who had little other means to quick investments with good returns."

According to Mr. Amad, "returns on AFM trading are in fact higher than on real estate investments and this had attracted more people into the market."

Dr. Omayya Touqan, general manager of the AFM, said early last week that "profit-taking" by investors was one of the reasons for the decline in business and expressed confidence that the indicators would be back to normal in a matter of days.

"I think the downward trend would continue for another two or three days before we reach that acceptable level, where prices would be stabilised," he told the Jordan Times last Saturday.

Mr. Amad and economic analysts are of the opinion that the AFM, which was dealt a severe blow by the Gulf crisis, is on an upward course and would continue its growth for some time to come.

"I believe that the market is on a course towards a level that prevailed during the pre-crisis years," Mr. Amad said. "The market slumped during the Gulf crisis and what has been happening since then is a gradual recovery to pre-crisis levels."

Mr. Amad also believes that the trend in the market would be focused on well-established companies. "It is well known that it now takes five or six times the initial investment that some of these companies put in if similar ventures were launched now," he said.

"Investors are very well aware of this fact. In addition, and perhaps more important, is the fact that the companies (whose shares are now being traded at the AFM) are well established, with excellent experience and proven performance," he explained.

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## Yeltsin urges NATO-style alliance for CIS members

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R) — Russian President Boris Yeltsin said Friday he would press for the signing of a defence treaty to create a NATO-style alliance for the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS).

Mr. Yeltsin, speaking at the start of a CIS summit, told reporters under heavy grey skies outside the conference centre in the Uzbek capital Tashkent that military matters would take priority in the first of two days of talks.

Asked if a "Tashkent treaty" or collective security agreement, drawn up by defence ministers earlier this week, would be signed at the end of the summit, a weary-looking Yeltsin replied: "Yes, I will press for this agreement to be signed." But he said not all questions could be resolved in the first day of the meeting. "Of 18 questions, let's decide 12."

The Commonwealth, founded in December on the ruins of the Soviet Union, is criticised by some, including Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, as having too few central control bodies.

But Ukraine, at loggerheads with its Slav neighbour in Moscow, charges that the Commonwealth allows Russia too many central powers and should be cut back.

Russia recently began forming its own army that is expected to



Boris Yeltsin

number over a million, while Central Asian states such as Uzbekistan are protected only by small National Guards and the remnants of the Soviet army.

The issue of security has become more pressing in this region with the seizure of power by Islamic groups across the border in Afghanistan.

Senior military officials said this week in Tashkent the collective security agreement would provide for the formation of a defence alliance on the NATO model.

They said the structure of the

old Warsaw Pact, with its Kremlin domination, would be completely unacceptable.

Prime Minister Vitold Fokin, who heads the Ukrainian delegation, told journalists he would concentrate on financial rather than military issues.

Only six of 11 heads of state arrived for the summit, held in a grey concrete and glass conference building fronted with sculptures of musical instruments and theatrical images.

The most notable absentee was Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk, whose relations with Mr. Yeltsin have chilled in a dispute over a shareout of the Black Sea Fleet, a 380-ship navy based in the Ukrainian port of Sevastopol.

Mr. Kravchuk had said he would stay in Kiev to receive Finnish President Mauno Koivisto. Mr. Yeltsin made light of his absence on Thursday. "We should not make a tragedy of it," he said.

The Ukrainian president, who suggested at the last summit in Kiev that the Commonwealth was bound for extinction, has said he wants big changes in the 11-nation grouping.

Ukraine takes no part in the joint Commonwealth military command and has already made it clear it would not form any joint military alliance with Commonwealth states.

But at least seven states are expected to sign the treaty in full, with others recording reservations with their signatures.

The treaty is strongly backed by the high command of the former Soviet army as a means to restore order in administration and funding of forces.

Another absentee at the conference is Azeri President Ayaz Muttalibov, who cancelled plans to attend because of instability in the capital Baku.

Mr. Muttalibov returned to power Thursday after two months on the sidelines and immediately imposed a state of emergency on his Transcaucasian country.

The CIS leaders agreed Friday to reduce the former Soviet Union's conventional forces and chemical weapons stockpile, a press spokesman said.

They also agreed on joint use of former Soviet space launching facilities, a common airspace and joint control and funding of border troops, Yevgeny Garelid told a news conference.

The agreements were reached during four hours of talks in Tashkent despite the absence of five presidents, representing nearly half of the 11-member Commonwealth.

Mr. Garelid, press secretary for the meeting's organising committee, said the five missing presidents had authorised lower ranking officials to represent them.

## Sarajevo calm again after ethnic battles

SARAJEVO (R) — Sarajevo was calm early Friday as Serb and Muslim forces regrouped after a day of tank and artillery battles Friday that shattered two brief ceasefires.

Most Western journalists in the Bosnian capital took advantage of the lull to leave, heading in a convoy for the Croatian port of Split on the Adriatic coast.

The Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio whose transmitters have been badly damaged by Serbs fighting Bosnian independence forces stopped broadcasting shortly before 6 a.m. The reason was not known.

Fighting died down before midnight after Yugoslav army tanks assaulted Muslim villages on Sarajevo's Western flank where the clashes were heaviest.

Belgrade Radio said 50 Muslim fighters were captured during attacks on the Serb-held suburb of Ilidza.

In a broadcast earlier, Sarajevo Radio reported 40 Muslims wounded or killed and said the fighting was followed by "an unbelievable calm, a horrible, silent night."

At the United Nations in New York, Security Council members struggled to find a way of helping Bosnia, whose independence is internationally recognised, without getting sucked deeper into the conflict.

The council was expected to pass a resolution demanding an end to interference by the Serb-led Yugoslav army and forces of neighbouring Croatia.

Access to the army's arsenal of heavy weapons and ammunition has given the Serb minority a huge advantage in fighting which has enabled them to capture two-thirds of Bosnian territory since March.

The United States wants disarmed federal troops, who include 40,000 Bosnian Serbs, to be disarmed and their weapons put out of reach.

Serbs, anxious to avoid being blamed as the sole aggressors in the violence, have increasingly claimed in recent days of attacks and driven from their homes by Muslims and Croat opponents.

The Yugoslav News Agency Tanjug said Thursday that Muslims killed 150 Serbs in villages around Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia since May 9.

"Pogroms against the Serbian population similar to those during World War II have begun in Srebrenica which has a majority Muslim population," Tanjug reported.

General Philippe Morillon, deputy head of the U.N. mission in the Bosnian capital, said the fighting in Sarajevo Thursday erupted when Muslim forces made an assault on a Serb barricade near the airport.

"Citizens were shooting out of control in Sarajevo and this no doubt contributed to the failure of the ceasefire," he said.

Gen. Morillon said U.N. officials would attempt to arrange a fresh truce Friday.

Mortar bombs slammed into a central hotel occupied by U.N. peacekeepers, slightly wounding a Kenyan soldier. The head of the U.N. mission, General Satish Nambiar, was pinned down in his residence on the city outskirts by nearby fighting.

## Government, opposition troops move into Baku

BAKU, Azerbaijan (R) — The Azeri government and opposition both moved troops and armour into the centre of the capital Baku Friday amidst growing fears of armed clashes.

President Ayaz Muttalibov, whose return to power Thursday brought the crisis to boiling point, put off a planned trip to the Uzbek capital Tashkent Friday for a summit of the Commonwealth of former Soviet republics.

"We had planned to go overnight but decided not to after studying the situation here. Anything could happen," Mr. Muttalibov's Press Secretary Rasm Agayev said from inside the presidential headquarters, a red and white marble building which used to be the headquarters of the local Communist Party.

A line of Defence Ministry troops wearing bullet-proof vests stood impassively in the baking morning sun outside the building, sealed off by two T-72 battle tanks, a mobile anti-aircraft battery and an armoured car.

The troops were moved in to guard key buildings after Mr. Muttalibov Thursday imposed a two-month state of emergency in the Transcaucasian republic, clamped down on the press and banned all political parties and social organisations.

Baku, on the Caspian Sea, was quiet overnight, except for sporadic gunfire.

The opposition Popular Front, who say Mr. Muttalibov's return to power amounts to a constitutional coup, has already launched a campaign of civil disobedience and does not rule out overthrowing Mr. Muttalibov by force.

## Burmese opposition leader calls for reconciliation

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, in her first public statement in nearly three years, has expressed hope for reconciliation and change in military-ruled Burma.

The statement, read by her son as Mrs. Suu Kyi received a human rights award Thursday evening, did not directly attack the government that has kept her under house arrest since July 1989 and prevented her from formally accepting the 1991 Nobel Prize.

But Mrs. Suu Kyi, allowed to see her family this month for the first time since her arrest, said reconciliation requires more than "token gestures of appeasement." The opposition leader said she has never doubted the ability of her people to bring change "once national reconciliation has been achieved."

Burma's rulers, who kept Mrs. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy (NLD) from taking office after it won 1990 national elections, recently have been releasing political prisoners and have promised a constitutional convention within six months.

Reading Mrs. Suu Kyi's statement at award ceremonies of the International Human Rights Law Group was Alexander Aris, 18, who with a brother has been granted a visa to see his mother. His father, Michael Aris, is reportedly in Burma after first being allowed to visit his wife on May 2.

Reed Brody, executive director of the law group, declined to say how Mrs. Suu Kyi's statement was relayed out of Burma.

Also receiving a human rights award from the group was Chilean President Patricio Aylwin, who in prepared remarks praised Mrs. Suu Kyi for sacrificing her own freedom in "defence of human rights."

Meanwhile, Burma's military junta has freed 14 more dissidents, the latest group released since the generals changed their leader last month.

Official Rangoon Radio said those freed included seven young women, three members of the National League for Democracy (NLD), and two senior officials of a smaller opposition group.

After naming General Than Shwe its new leader last month, the junta said it would free all political prisoners not deemed a threat to national security.

## Deadlock as S. African peace summit starts

JOHANNESBURG (R) — South African democracy talks opened Friday and immediately adjourned for 75 minutes to break a deadlock between the two main protagonists, the white government and the African National Congress (ANC).

President F.W. De Klerk and ANC leader Nelson Mandela shook hands and exchanged pleasantries just before the second plenary session of the Convention for a Democratic South Africa (CODESA II) opened, but their smiles hid deep differences.

The two sides, who held a first plenary session last December, are arguing over the majority required in a transitional parliament to agree a democratic constitution for a post-apartheid state.

The black opposition movement accuses the government, which is demanding at least a 70 per cent majority for change plus blocking powers for an upper house where minorities will be specially represented, of trying to block black majority rule.

Officials of the white ruling National Party (NP) say the ANC's demand for a 66.7 per cent majority with 75 per cent for a bill of rights — is insufficient guarantee against domination of minorities in a diverse and fractious society.

"That would be giving in and handing over power," NP Constitutional Committee member Sheila Cameron told Reuters.

NP delegation leader Dawie De Villiers said: "We are just an arms length from an overall consensus. The parties are really very close to consensus. CODESA II is not the end of the road ... if there is one important matter left outstanding we should not be cast into despondency."

The party, which introduced

apartheid in 1948 to preserve the supremacy of minority whites over the 5-1 black majority, has been dismantling the system over the past two years.

As they trooped out of the main conference hall for their 75-minute recess to tackle the deadlock, delegates said all other agreements reached by the 19 parties at the negotiations in closed-door sessions over the past five months depended on agreement on the fundamental issue of the powers to be wielded by the transitional parliament.

Delegates said CODESA II was confronting a basic difference that has been danced around by negotiators since Mr. De Klerk legalised black opposition activity two years ago to get democracy talks going. The government has always talked about sharing power with blacks, while the ANC and its anti-apartheid allies sought a transfer of power to the majority.

Mr. Mandela Thursday accused white authorities of waging a silent war against the ANC and said: "The government proposals are all intended to protect the privilege of whites — we reject that."

More than 85 political, religious, trade union, women and student organisations in the broad ANC alliance Thursday ordered their leaders to force the government to concede over voting percentages and press for an interim multi-party government by July.

Striking another discordant note, the convention Friday was boycotted by Inkatha Freedom Party leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the third powerful South African leader.

He is demanding the Zulu king and his KwaZulu homeland government be given their own delegations at the talks.

## Santiago vows protests against Filipino poll fraud

MANILA (R) — Philippine presidential front-runner Miriam Santiago accused her opponents Friday of resorting to electoral fraud to deny her victory and said she would mobilise mass protests in major cities.

Mrs. Santiago convened a news conference to denounce what she said was rigging of the election count under way of Monday's polls. She indicated she held the party of her closest rival, ex-Defence Minister Fidel Ramos, responsible.

"I am going to lead a series of mass demonstrations in key cities throughout the country to denounce the wholesale electoral fraud that is taking place in the country even as I address you at this moment," said the tough-talking 46-year-old People's Reform Party leader.

Mrs. Santiago said she would begin Saturday in her home town of Iloilo, 460 kilometres south of Manila.

A spokesman for Gen. Ramos said she was being hysterical. "She's really playing a dangerous game of brinkmanship at this point. This thing could just erupt into ugly violence. Someone should tell her to behave," said Rafael Alunan, spokesman for Gen. Ramos's People Power Party.

A group of foreign observers, who monitored the poll, said vote-buying, intimidation and

drunkenness marred the elections in some areas.

Mrs. Santiago and Gen. Ramos emerged as the two front-runners in the closest battle for the presidency in Philippine history.

Mrs. Santiago, an acid-tongued former judge, led early counting. In some counts, Gen. Ramos has narrowly taken the lead.

Gen. Ramos overtook Mrs. Santiago for the first time in the officially sanctioned media citizens' quick count, which has so far tabulated around 10 per cent of the total votes cast.

Gen. Ramos had 620,444 votes while Mrs. Santiago has 594,438, it said.

Gen. Ramos has said early returns were from Mrs. Santiago's strongholds, and that he would overtake her in the count when other provinces were included.

"What is his capability for predicting the future unless he has already designed the future? If this is not an attempted rape of the democratic process, I challenge the media to prove that it isn't," Mrs. Santiago said.

The popular anti-gang crusader, whose enemies say suffers from delusions of grandeur, charged there was "a deliberate, well-orchestrated, nationwide scenario to cheat the Filipino people of the rightful results of our elections."

## Column

### Dung-flinger jailed for Rolls-Royce attack

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (R) — A Yugoslav anti-royalist was jailed for one year for hurling a bucket of manure at a vintage Rolls-Royce and damaging the 85-year-old car. Castilav Bacanov, 56, pleaded not guilty to wilfully causing 20,000 New Zealand dollars (\$10,600) damage to the Rolls-Royce, on loan from a British owner for promotional purposes. He was found guilty and sentenced to a year in jail and ordered to pay NZ dollar 10,000 (\$5,300) in damages, officials at Auckland's district court said. The Rolls-Royce Silver Ghost's driver, Trevor Hudson, told the court Mr. Bacanov ran out of a crowd and hurled a bucket of horse manure at the car. The bucket then hit the car, causing damage. Mr. Bacanov said he objected to the car because it was the kind used to transport royalty.

### Greens start collecting condoms for Russia

KIEL, Germany (AP) — Germany's leftist Greens Party launched another relief operation aimed at easing shortages in Russia — this time, for condoms. "There are hardly any contraceptives in Russia, and surely none that have been electronically tested," said Volker Scheicher, a spokesman for the party's chapter in Schleswig-Holstein state. He said the Greens decided to start collecting condoms for Russia after seeing international studies showing that Russian women have an average of 10 abortions by the time they are 40. The greens have appealed to the public and condom manufacturers to donate condoms to the campaign.

### Men survive 6 months at sea on fish, rainwater

APIA, Western Samoa (AP) — Two men survived nearly six months drinking rainwater, officials say. Funerals already had been held for fishermen Tabwai Mikia and Arent Tebeibabu, along with Nweti Takamangu, who died just days before the boat washed ashore last Saturday in Western Samoa. "I have seen them," Western Samoa Police Commissioner Daniel Galuvao said Wednesday. "They are just bones and skin. According to the doctors, they will be in hospital for quite some time." The men said their four-metre dinghy was blown out to sea from the Kiribati island of Nikunau, 900 nautical miles away, during a cyclone. Nov. 17. The boat capsized and lost its outboard motor. "They managed to overturn the boat, but then they started drifting," Mr. Galuvao told the New Zealand Herald. The men used a spear and one line to catch fish, including sharks. A small basin collected rainwater during the 175-day odyssey. But they said malnutrition and exposure finally claimed Takamangu, the group's 47-year-old leader. Mikia, 24, and Tebeibabu, 40, said they kept the body aboard for two days before burying it at sea. As the men lay near death, the boat somehow slipped through a gap in a dangerous reef to wash up near the village of Lolomane, east of the Western Samoan capital of Apia, on Upolu Island.

### Hillary says Everest becoming junk-heap

LONDON (R) — The first man to conquer Mount Everest has said that gatherings "the size of a cocktail party" at the summit were transforming the world's highest peak into a junk heap. New Zealand mountaineer Sir Edmund Hillary, who reached the summit of the world's highest mountain in 1953 with Nepalese Sherpa guide Tenzing Norgay, was commenting on the record arrival at the summit Tuesday of at least 30 mountaineers from five different expeditions. "Having climbed Everest myself, I would not want to stop anyone having the opportunity to repeat the feat," Sir Edmund, 72, wrote in the daily mail. "But the events of this week, with a gathering the size of a cocktail party at the summit, make 1953 a golden age. I'm not sure I'd want to climb Everest now," he said. He said the saddest aspect of the "popularisation" of Everest was "the fact that it is beginning to resemble a junk heap." "Our team contributed to that. We set off to challenge a mountain uncontaminated by man. And in the euphoria of our success, we dumped our stuff upon its slopes."

## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Troops fight Russian arms dump blaze

MOSCOW (R) — Vast explosions tore through the sky near Vladivostok Friday as more than 250 servicemen battled to put out a blaze which broke out at an ammunition dump Thursday and was still spreading. About 6,000 people were evacuated from their homes in the Russian Far East port, ITAR-TASS News Agency said. Five servicemen were injured in blasts which sprayed shell debris in a radius of one kilometre across the outskirts of the Pacific Ocean city. "The situation in the area is getting worse," TASS said. "Expectations that the blaze could be contained have proved wrong. The fire has spread to new areas and is threatening to spread to buildings containing more shells."

### Gorbachev wraps up U.S. tour

WASHINGTON (R) — Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev wrapped up a private visit to Washington on a distinctly political note, talking business with President George Bush and saying the U.S. Congress looked set to approve aid for Russia. "I don't think there's been a trip like this," Mr. Gorbachev told reporters late Thursday. "I will call it unprecedented." Gorbachev the effusive private citizen spoke after dining at the White House and lunching at Congress, all the while stressing he was outside of politics — for now at least. "I have to be very definitive on this: I have no such plans" to run for office again, Mr. Gorbachev said. But the man who presided bitterly over the breakup of the Soviet Union added with a smile: "Everything flows and everything changes." If Russia veers from democracy, Mr. Gorbachev said, "then I would have to assess the situation and make my own decision."

### Senate panel backs aid to CIS

WASHINGTON (R) — A Senate committee voted 14-4 Wednesday to give the U.S. administration broad authority to help republics of the former Soviet Union become free-market democracies. The aid legislation sent to the full Senate by the Foreign Relations Committee would authorise an increase of more than \$12 billion in the U.S. contribution to the International Monetary Fund, partly for aid to former Soviet states. It also would support a contribution of up to \$3 billion to currency stabilisation funds for the Commonwealth of Independent States. President George Bush announced on April 1 that the United States would participate in a \$24 billion multilateral aid initiative for the CIS, including food credits. He had hoped that legislation would pass Congress before the planned June visit to Washington of Soviet President Boris Yeltsin but it was far from clear whether congress would be able to complete its action in time.

### U.S. returns troop facilities to Japan

TOKYO (R) — The United States announced Friday that it would return three military facilities on the Japanese island of Okinawa, a move immediately welcomed by the government in Tokyo. Vice-President Dan Quayle, in Tokyo to mark the 20th anniversary of Okinawa's return to Japanese rule from U.S. military occupation, announced the return of the facilities at a news conference. The three, covering a total of 240 hectares (590 acres), are only a fraction of the continuing huge U.S. military land-holding in the island prefecture. Some 32,000 American servicemen are based there. "We deeply value the cooperation extended by the U.S. government in reaching this agreement," Japanese Foreign Minister Michio Watanabe said in a statement.

### Last of China's 10 marshals dies

PEKING (AP) — Marshal Nie Rongzhen, last of the famed 10 marshals of the Chinese Communist Party's Red Army, has died, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Friday. He was 93. The report said he died of illness late Thursday. The official obituary described Marshal Nie as a "founder of the People's Liberation Army and an outstanding proletarian revolutionary and strategist." The obituary was jointly issued by the Communist Party, the State Council and the Central Military Commission.

Jefferson